GMA names Romulo executive secretary

STORY ON PAGE A2

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

THURSDAY, MAY 3, 2001 · ★★ 42 PAGES 3 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 144 ₱15

Who's mystery group?

EIGHTY men and seven women in camouflage Army uniforms were apprehended and interrogated by Police Chief Supt. Hermogenes Ebdane and Senior Supt. Rock Thor, chief of the Central Police District Command, after they were found meeting at the old grandstand near the Quezon City Hall shortly before midnight Wednesday. Four of them were allegedly armed with M16 rifles. They claimed to be with the Army Reserve Command for the National Capital Region. Thor told the Inquirer that after the interrogation, he turned them over to their commander, Col. Miusa Macalala. But PNP intelligence sources said that the mysterious group had in fact been waiting for "some opposition leaders," until they were picked up.
Christine Herrera, Philip Tubeza and Fe Zamora

Peso, stocks rise; traders cheer GMA

THE PESO and local stocks yesterday soared as investors hailed the Macapagal administration's tough crackdown on rioting supporters of ousted leader Joseph Estrada.

"The business community is cheering President Macapagal-Arroyo for using an iron fist to quell the rebellion," said Elfren Cruz, president of Mutual Fund Management Co. of the Philippines.

PESO/ A16

Gloria: I feel great ... but I got scared

By Armand N. Nocum, Jerome Aning and Dave Veridiano

THE COUNTRY'S commander in chief admitted that she got scared at the height of the assault on Malacañang by thousands of supporters of jailed former President Joseph Estrada.

"*Siguro* (maybe), for a split second," President Macapagal-Arroyo said on radio when asked whether there was a time she got scared during the attack on Tuesday.

But then she said she gathered her wits and focused on how to quell the rebellion.

"It was more important to concentrate on what I should be doing, on what I should be ordering," she said over radio dzRH.

On her orders, the police and the military dispersed the rioters. The running battles lasted for more than 12 hours.

"I feel great!" Ms Macapagal said after she quelled a rebellion on her 100th day in office.

If the attackers succeeded in breaching Palace defenses, they would have had a hard time finding her because of her knowledge of the secret passages at the Palace, Ms Macapagal said.

"I grew up here. My aides, who were still children then, get sur-

GLORIA/ A16

SAGISAG NG PANGULO NG PILIPINAS

WHAT'S SO FUNNY?: President Macapagal giggles when asked about the possibility of Sen. Miriam Santiago turning state witness. JOAN BONDOC

Maceda put behind bars; Miriam next

Principal suspects now face non-bailable raps

By Christine Herrera, Juliet L. Javellana, Cathy C. Yamsuan and Carlito Pablo

EX-AMBASSADOR to the United States Ernesto Maceda was arrested yesterday in the course of the government crackdown on the 11 suspected instigators of Tuesday's violent siege of Malacañang.

Maceda, a known ally of deposed President Joseph Estrada, said the charge of rebellion that the government planned to file against him was "politically motivated" and "based on hate and vengeance."

The Department of Justice has dropped plans to use Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago as a state witness against the suspected instigators, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez announced in Malacañang.

Perez said an arresting team would show up any time at the senator's house in UP Village, Quezon City.

In a "flash news advisory" issued by her office, Santiago said she would resist arrest "on the ground that it is illegal, and that (Defense Secretary Angelo) Reyes et al. would be guilty of arbitrary detention under the Penal Code."

Maceda said that "since the time I acted as spokesman for former

MACEDA/ A4

'No legal basis for rebellion declaration'

By Martin P. Marfil, Christine Avendaño and Dona Pazzibugan

HOUSE Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. yesterday joined the opposition in urging President Macapagal-Arroyo to lift her declaration of a state of rebellion in Metro Manila following Tuesday's riot by supporters of deposed leader Joseph Estrada.

"It (Ms Macapagal's declaration of a state of rebellion) sends some wrong signals," Belmonte, who is running for mayor of Quezon City, told a news conference.

Opposition leaders described Ms Macapagal's declaration as "a prelude to martial law," an attempt to silence critics, and cripple Estrada's political allies in the local and congressional elections on May 14.

"There is no legal basis for the so-called state of rebellion. This is an abnormality . . . a mask for an undeclared martial law. There is no proclamation at all, only a press statement," said Edgardo Angara, Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino

NO/ A4

'I have no intention of declaring martial law'

By Juliet L. Javellana and Cathy C. Yamsuan

"I HAVE no intention of declaring martial law. I hope they will not provoke me."

This was what President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday in addressing fears that her declaring a "state of rebellion" in Metro Manila could be a prelude to the imposition of martial law.

She aired the warning, apparently directed at the camp of her ousted predecessor Joseph Estrada, in a press conference held after she presided over a Cabinet cluster meeting.

But she told Reuters Television: "I am looking forward to being able to lift (the declaration) on the seventh of May."

The Department of Justice yesterday released a memorandum clarifying that the President's declaration of a state of rebellion would not automatically lead to martial law or the lifting of the privilege of the writ of *habeas corpus*.

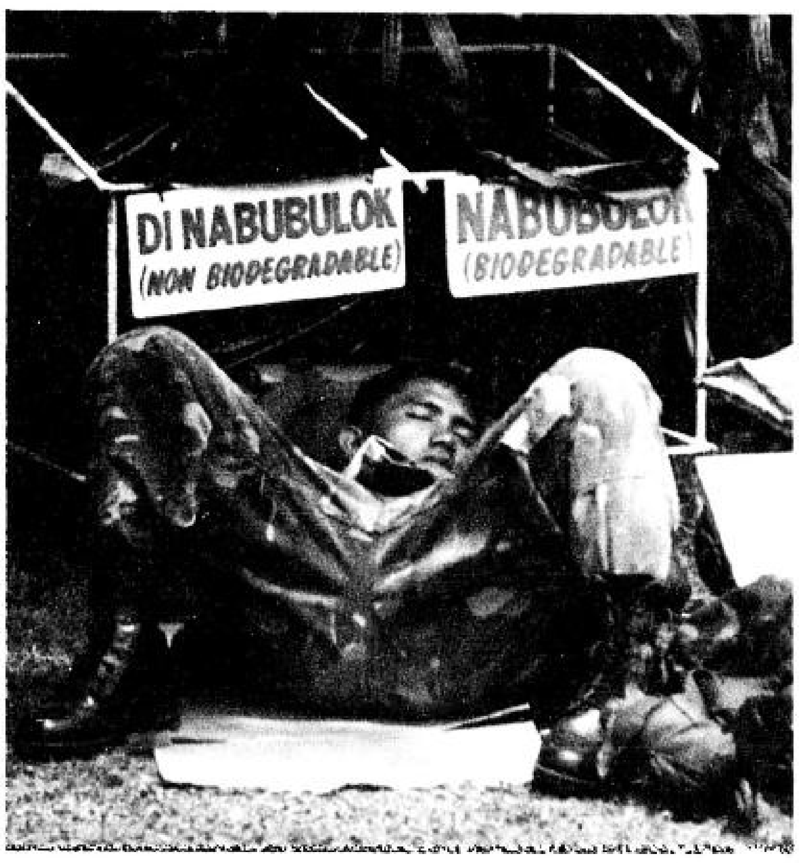
Signed by Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, the three-page memo stated that the DOJ did not recommend these two scenarios as a response to the Estrada loyalists' bloody attack on Malacañang Tuesday morning.

Earlier, various sectors voiced apprehensions that the administration would use the declaration as a license to suppress civil liberties.

In a dzRH radio interview earlier in the day, the President warned that she would "have no choice" but to impose martial law if the rebellion would continue.

"*Ngayon po, sasabihin ko ay huwag nila akong tuksuhin* (I am saying that they should not provoke me)," she said to the question of

I HAVE/ A4



WHICH IS WHICH: After the defense of Malacañang, a soldier finds any available niche to rest his weary bones. JOAN BONDOC

'Dead' cop hailed as living hero

By Armand N. Nocum and Dave Veridiano

THE POLICEMAN, who the INQUIRER reported yesterday had been beaten to death by pro-Estrada forces on their march to Mendiola at dawn Tuesday, has been hailed a hero by President Macapagal.

But he's a living hero.

PO1 Grant Fausto L. Savedia, 26, was discharged from the National Orthopedic Hospital yesterday after being treated for an injury in his right leg and superficial wounds all over his body.

For not firing his gun as he was staring death in the face, Savedia has been cited by the President as the role model for the government's maximum tolerance policy in dealing with the rioters at Mendiola.

The Palace is holding up Savedia

DEAD/ A4

KUDOS to a cop: President Macapagal hails PO1 Grant Fausto Savedia a symbol of the government's "mega tolerance" policy. With Interior Secretary Lina, she visits Savedia in his rooming house in Sampaloc. JOAN BONDOC

Erap loyalists' rampage cost ₱100M

By Jerome Aning

ABOUT P100 million worth of private and government property were either destroyed or damaged during clashes between government forces and supporters of jailed former President Joseph Estrada on Tuesday, the Western Police District (WPD) yesterday said.

The estimate made by WPD director Senior Supt. Nicolas Pacinos Jr. was five times bigger than that by Manila Mayor Lito Atienza.

Pasinos said only four civilians, allegedly Estrada loyalists, and a Manila policeman were killed during the clashes.

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines expressed sadness over the lives lost during the riots.

"We express our deepest sympathies to the families of those who lost their lives, whether they are policemen or demonstrators, during the dispersal of the pro-Estrada crowd at Mendiola," Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, president of the CBCP, said in a statement.

The CBCP also paid tribute to the Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police for successfully preventing the pro-Estrada demonstrators from entering Malacañang.

A day after the clashes, Manila City Hall sweepers and engineering crew began cleaning up the mess left by the rioters.

Burned by the protesters during the clash were three pickups (two owned by ABS-CBN and one by ABC-5), a fire truck, an ambulance and the wrecker that was towing it, a private car, a WPD prowl car and two motorcycles, a backhoe equip-

ERAP/ A16

State of rebellion a constitutional oddity

By Raul J. Palabrica

ANALYSIS

WHEN President Macapagal ordered the Philippine National Police and Armed Forces of the Philippines to repel and disperse the Estrada protesters who stormed the gates of Malacañang, she acted in her capacity as AFP commander in chief.

Calling on the armed forces is the initial step the Constitution authorizes the President to take to prevent or suppress "lawless violence, invasion or rebellion."

When the armed forces are called, how they will perform their

STATE/ A5

IBA NA ANG LAGING HANDA!

Romulo is new 'Little President'

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA AND CLARISSA S. BATINO

FINANCE Secretary Alberto Romulo will be the new executive secretary in the Macapagal administration vice Renato de Villa who underwent recent heart surgery.

This was announced yesterday by President Macapagal-Arroyo who told a press conference that Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II would take over Romulo's post.

Presidential chief of staff Renato Corona, who is concurrently acting executive secretary, said Malacañang is looking for a replacement for Roxas.

The President did not say when the appointments would take effect.

"I have not appointed them but Secretary De Villa is going on an indefinite leave so I told them (Romulo and Roxas) that if it becomes permanent then I (will) have to make this kind of *rigodon* (changes) but it doesn't have to be done now. So when they think it's time to move over, then they're welcome to move over but I have not appointed them," she said.

Asked if changing economic managers at this time might be an adverse move, she said she had no choice because of De Villa's health.

De Villa, who underwent triple heart bypass surgery last week, was reportedly advised by his doctors to take things easy for a while. Thus, Romulo was offered the post and he was prevailed upon by the President to accept it, said a government source.

Romulo is in Washington attending an International Monetary Fund meeting, his last official function as finance chief.

The date of Romulo's appointment will be decided at the next Cabinet meeting, however.

Roxas replaced Romulo in the Monetary Board yesterday, a strong indication that he was about to replace the latter as finance chief.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said, however, that Roxas was appointed to the Monetary Board, the policy-making body of the Bangko Sentral, in his capacity as trade secretary.

Others reportedly considered for finance secretary were Margarito Teves, president of LandBank; Energy Secretary Isidro Camacho, who used to be an investment banker, and former finance secretary Edgardo B. Espiritu.

If Roxas leaves Trade, the post is expected to go to Vincent Perez, current undersecretary and managing head of the Board of Investments.

Roxas, however, said yesterday he was "very happy where I am."

He said there has been "no word, official or otherwise," about his being offered the post of finance secretary by President Macapagal.

"These are just rumors," he said.

In a statement, Romulo said he has a good team at Finance and regrets having to leave it.

"I would not leave but I think it (the department) would be in good hands with Secretary Roxas," Romulo said.

Romulo said he had no idea when the appointments would take effect. He said he still had to talk to De Villa and the other Cabinet members.

"We're not in a rush because the team's running smoothly," Romulo said.

He said the recent political turmoil has had only a temporary negative impact on business and the situation is expected to improve.

"What the business community wants is firm and decisive leadership and the President has provided that," Romulo said.

Romulo was a senator during the Aquino administration. Prior to that, he was secretary of budget and management.

Roxas was a congressman from Capiz before he was appointed trade secretary by former President Joseph Estrada. He was re-appointed to the position by Ms Macapagal after he had resigned before Estrada stepped down from the presidency. *With Raul Dancel*

RAM disowns Gringo

BY CARLITO PABLO

THE REBOLOSYUNARYONG Alyansang Makabansa has dissociated itself from its former leader, Sen. Gregorio Honasan, who is being hunted by the government as one of the alleged plotters in a reported attempt to grab power.

"He's not with us anymore. He broke away from us," said former Commodore Domingo Calajate, who used to chair the military rebel group which launched several failed coups against the Aquino administration.

Three other military men also previously affiliated with RAM are also wanted by the authorities for their alleged involvement in the attempted power grab.

These are Brig. Marcelino Malajacan, who was Honasan's operations officer in the coup attempts against Aquino in the 1980s; Chief Supt. Victor Batac and Senior Supt. Diosdado Valeroso.

Honasan is also acknowledged to be the "*supremo*" of the Guardians, a military-based group allied with RAM. Some of its members were allegedly enlisted by Honasan to participate in the failed power grab.

Calajate noted, however, that the Guardians is divided into several factions, the biggest of which is led by former Col. Billy Bibit who is in turn allied with the mainstream RAM.

Coup plot

It was the Guardian members whom Honasan tried to recruit into the reported coup plot who reported the senator's activities to the RAM headquarters.

"Ram is solidly behind the administration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo," Calajate said. "We cannot be a party to anything that will destabilize the administration."

Calajate said that although Honasan has neither been expelled from RAM, nor resigned from the group, he and RAM have effectively parted ways.

"RAM participated in Edsa II. Honasan sided with Erap (jailed ex-president Joseph Estrada)," Calajate said.

He said Honasan, who is seeking reelection under the pro-Estrada coalition, may have to pay the price in the May 14 elections.

"If he doesn't get elected, well, that's the price he has to pay," Calajate said.

During the impeachment trial of Estrada, RAM was torn as its officers were supporting the opposition while Honasan was clearly siding with Estrada.

In a meeting with RAM leaders then, Honasan pledged to be a non-partisan juror but events proved otherwise as he was among the 11 senators who voted against the admission of crucial evidence, an act which precipitated the Edsa II uprising.

RAM issued a statement condemning the 11 senators.

Calajate said that was when the split with Honasan occurred.

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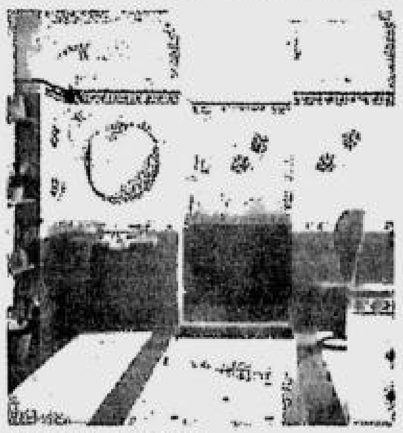

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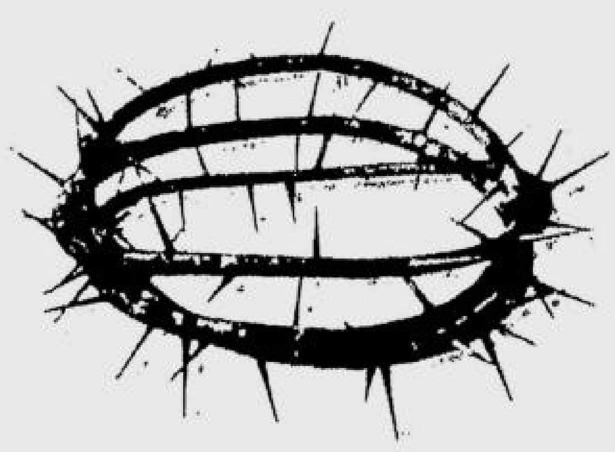

Who is The Real Jesus?

Some claim that Jesus was just a man; while others claim that he was a myth and that he never really existed! But what is the truth about the nature of Jesus? When was he born? Why was he born? What did he look like? Did he sport long hair? Did he have brothers and sisters? Is he a member of the "Holy Trinity?" What do the Scriptures reveal about him?

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven." (Matthew 16:13-17)

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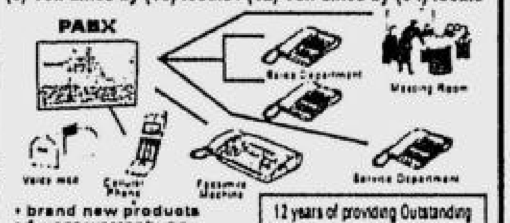

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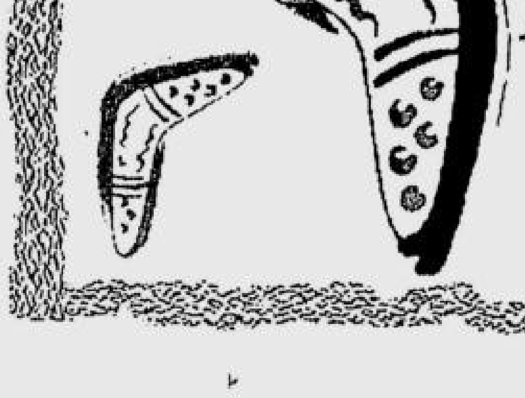

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UP grad heads list of 979 new lawyers

A UNIVERSITY of the Philippines graduate topped the list of examinees who passed the "millennium" bar examinations held last September.

Eliseo M. Zuñiga, Jr. garnered a weighted average of 90.6 percent to place on top of the 979 examinees out of the 4,698 who took the exams. This year's passing rate is 20.84 percent.

The examinations were held on Sept. 3, 10, 17 and 24 at the De La Salle University in Manila.

The other successful examinees who made it to the top 10 are:

2. Arvin Dexter M. Lopoz, AdMU, 90.55%
3. Jean G. Pantaleon-Pallorina, AdMU, 89.2%
4. Rogelio G. Largo, AdMU, 88.55%
5. Joan D. Adaci, U.P., 88.4%
6. Michael Felipe A. Mercado, San Beda College, 88.3%
7. Valerie C. Feria, U.P., 88.15%; Princess Lou D. Managuelod, U.P., 88.15%
8. Prudence Angelita A. Kasala, UST, 87.85%
9. Andrea Antonette A. Sese-Relucio, AdMU, 87.8%
10. Maria Cristina T. Suralvo, U.P., 87.45%

The 2000 bar examinations committee was chaired by Supreme Court Associate Justice Minerva Gonzaga-Reyes.

See complete list of new lawyers at INQUIRER website (Inq7.net) and at the Supreme Court website (supremecourt.gov.ph)

'Rebellion'won't stop Metro polls, says Comelec

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

THE MAY 14 elections in Metro Manila will push through despite the declaration of a state of rebellion in the capital following the bloody riots on Tuesday by supporters of imprisoned former President Joseph Estrada, the chair of the Commission on Elections said yesterday.

"If there will be no more violence, I don't see why we should postpone the elections," Comelec chair Alfredo Benipayo said.

The Comelec chair also said opposition senatorial candidates Gregorio Honasan, Juan Ponce Enrile, Panfilo Lacson and Miriam Defensor-Santiago cannot be disqualified from running even if they are arrested and charged with rebellion.

"What are the grounds for disqualification? Even if they committed a crime, there has to be a trial first and there should be a final conviction before a disqualification can be announced," Benipayo said.

Santiago, Honasan, Enrile and Lacson were among the politicians and Estrada supporters whom Malacañang has identified as the alleged leaders of a reported attempt to bring down the Macapagal-Arroyo administration amidst the bloody riots last Tuesday.

In Tabaco City, Sen. Franklin Drilon said the elections should proceed as scheduled even as he called for the immediate investigation of Santiago and the other alleged plotters.

Drilon, who was in Tabaco for the Bicol leg of the pro-administration People's Power Coalition's victory caravan, said there was no serious ground yet for postponing the polls.

More trouble

"Delaying the elections might spell more trouble for the country," he said.

Benipayo said there was also no urgency to put the National Capital Region under Comelec control.

"If perhaps the situation on May 14 will be the same as that of yesterday (May 1) and the day before (April 30), then perhaps there would be a justification," he added.

In situations where violence cannot be controlled, Benipayo said the Comelec would take over the local governments affected.

Benipayo said the opposition leaders could not be stopped from running even if a disqualification case is filed against them before the Comelec.

And if they win, they will be proclaimed unless they are convicted of the charges filed against them. But they could still be unseated if the Comelec were to decide a disqualification case against them.

As of yesterday, no petitions for disqualification had been filed against Santiago, Enrile, Honasan or Lacson. *With a report from Mae Lorraine Rafols, Metro Manila, and Roly Embile, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Police tolerance good for tourism–Gordon

TOURISM Secretary Richard Gordon yesterday said the high sense of duty and extreme tolerance of police and military forces in dealing with the pro-Estrada rioters also served Philippine tourism well.

"Manila is safe to tourists. Even at the height of the confrontation fronting the Palace city systems were running and life went on. Theaters and malls were open and Labor Day activities took place," Gordon said.

In a letter to Vice President Teofisto Guingona, Gordon sought the immediate issuance of an advisory telling the world about the peace and order in the country.

"Our air, land and sea transport are on normal operations. Hotels are receiving their usual bookings. Tourism marketing and promotions are proceeding as targeted," he said.

The tourism chief also asked Philippine Embassy officials to join tourism attaches in telling the world that tourism is unhampered by current developments.

"The government displayed hallmarks of good leadership in acting swiftly, fairly and firmly. For this, the Philippine leadership now proceeds to steer national economic recovery with the clearest case of political stability in tow to show the international community."

Gonzales, 86

JOSE Ibarra Gadaoni Gonzales Sr. of Looc, Romblon, father of INQUIRER desk person Stella Ruth Gonzales, died yesterday at the age of 86. He is survived by his wife, Rosario Oliver-Gonzales, and children Jose Ibarra Jr., Cynthia Rosario and Stella Ruth.

His body lies at the St. Paul's United Methodist Church at 1232 Sta. Maria St:, Tondo, Manila. He will be cremated on May 5.

Pascual, 96

LEONILA Dizon Pascual of Mabalacat, Pampanga, died yesterday (May 2) after three weeks at an Angeles City hospital. She was 96.

She is the mother of Philippine Star columnist and former INQUIRER editor in chief Federico D. Pascual Jr. She is survived also by her other children Emerita Agbunag, Romarica Canlas, Felicidad Gonzales, Iraida Candelaria, Bienvenida Dizon, Reatro Pascual and Cesar Pascual.

Her body lies at the Pangilinan funeral parlor in Mabalacat. Interment details will be announced later.

HOUSE ARREST PETITION

Erap lawyer 'namedrops' Iglesia

By Martin P. Marfil,
Alcuin Papa and
Dennis Maliwanag,
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

THE IGLESIA ni Cristo, the influential Christian sect said to have provided numerous warm bodies for the weeklong pro-Estrada protests at Edsa, has been cited in one of the arguments to place jailed former President Joseph Estrada under house arrest.

In a four-page position paper filed before the Sandiganbayan's 3rd division yesterday, Estrada lawyer Raymond Fortun said house arrest for the ousted president would be "acceptable" to the INC.

The lawyer claimed house arrest had a historical precedent, citing the cases of President Emilio Aguinaldo and Senators Benigno Aquino and Jovito Salonga.

Speaker Feliciano "Sonny" Belmonte revealed yesterday that the INC indicated their interest in house arrest for Estrada when he and other government officials met INC leaders on Monday.

"But we did make it very clear that (President Macapagal-Arroyo) was not in a legal position to make a commitment to that," Belmonte said.

The matter was really up to the Sandiganbayan where motions on the matter were being discussed, Belmonte explained to the INC leaders who apparently accepted the explanation.

In the police camp at Barangay Sto. Domingo in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, where he and his son were flown at the height of his supporters' bloody march on Malacañang on Tuesday, the disgraced ex-president was yesterday already complaining about the conditions in his specially built bungalow prison cell.

According to Sen. Vicente Sotto, who visited yesterday, the ex-president and his son, Jinggoy, complained of the heat in their prison quarters.

"There are no curtains and the aircons can only cool the two rooms," Sotto told reporters outside the camp in Filipino.

Sotto added that Manila paper had been taped on the windows to keep the sunlight out and to "provide some privacy."

Officials of the elite PNP-Special Action Force, which are guarding the camp, said curtains were not allowed in the bungalow's windows to allow the guards to monitor the movements of the prisoners from outside.

The prison cell, which is actually a blue-and-white bungalow, has two air-conditioned bedrooms and a living room and comes with amenities not found in the average Filipino home.

Sotto reiterated the Estradas' request for visiting hours to be extended and for more visitors to be allowed.

Sotto also complained that the walk from the gate of the camp to the detention cell was "too far" for the prisoners' visitors, most of them Estrada's children.

No vehicles are allowed to enter the camp and visitors have to walk some 500 meters to the fenced bungalow.

Yesterday, Estrada was given a haircut by his private barber who refused to be interviewed.

A Mass was celebrated at 8 a.m. by Fr. Tomas Naval from the University of Santo Tomas.

Among the visitors seen yesterday were Estrada's wife, Luisa "Loi" Ejercito, who apparently spent the night, daughter Jackie, and Jinggoy's wife, Precy, with her three children.

Also visiting were Estrada's three young children by one of his mistresses, ex-starlet Laarni Enriquez.

Caloocan Rep. Luis "Baby" Asistio and Palawan mayor Edward Hagedorn also came. But Hagedorn was not able to enter the camp because his name was not in the official list of visitors.

There are reportedly around 70 names in the official list of visitors.

Most of the visitors refused to talk to media.

Loi Ejercito left the camp yesterday without responding to questions from reporters who had been waiting outside the camp for hours.

Reporters were not allowed entry and none of the security people would respond to their questions.

Security has been very tight, with the more than 2,000 members of the elite PNP-SAF augmented by three battalions from the Armed Forces' Southern Luzon Command and from the PNP's Region 4 command.

Checkpoints have also been set up along the highway leading to the camp.

Buses carrying Estrada loyalists were turned away early yesterday morning.

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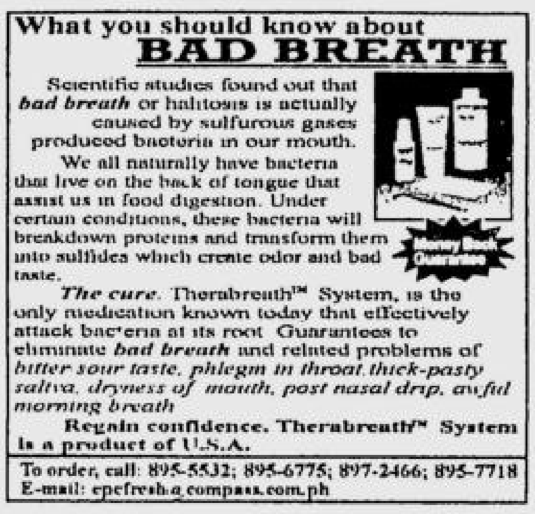
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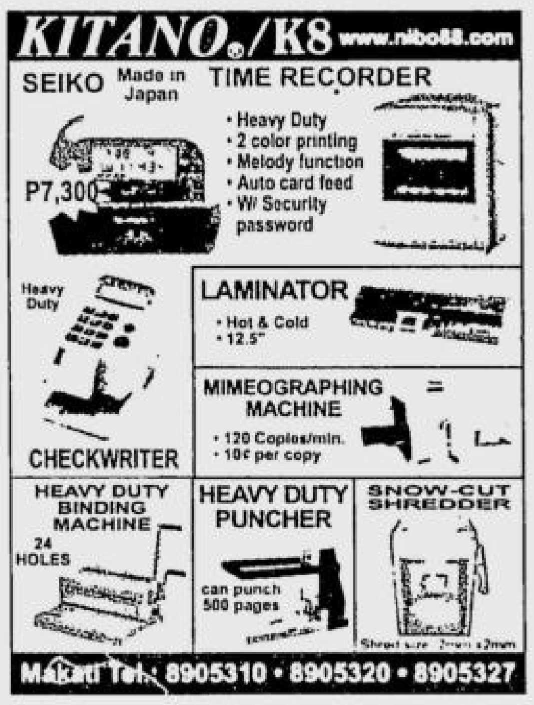
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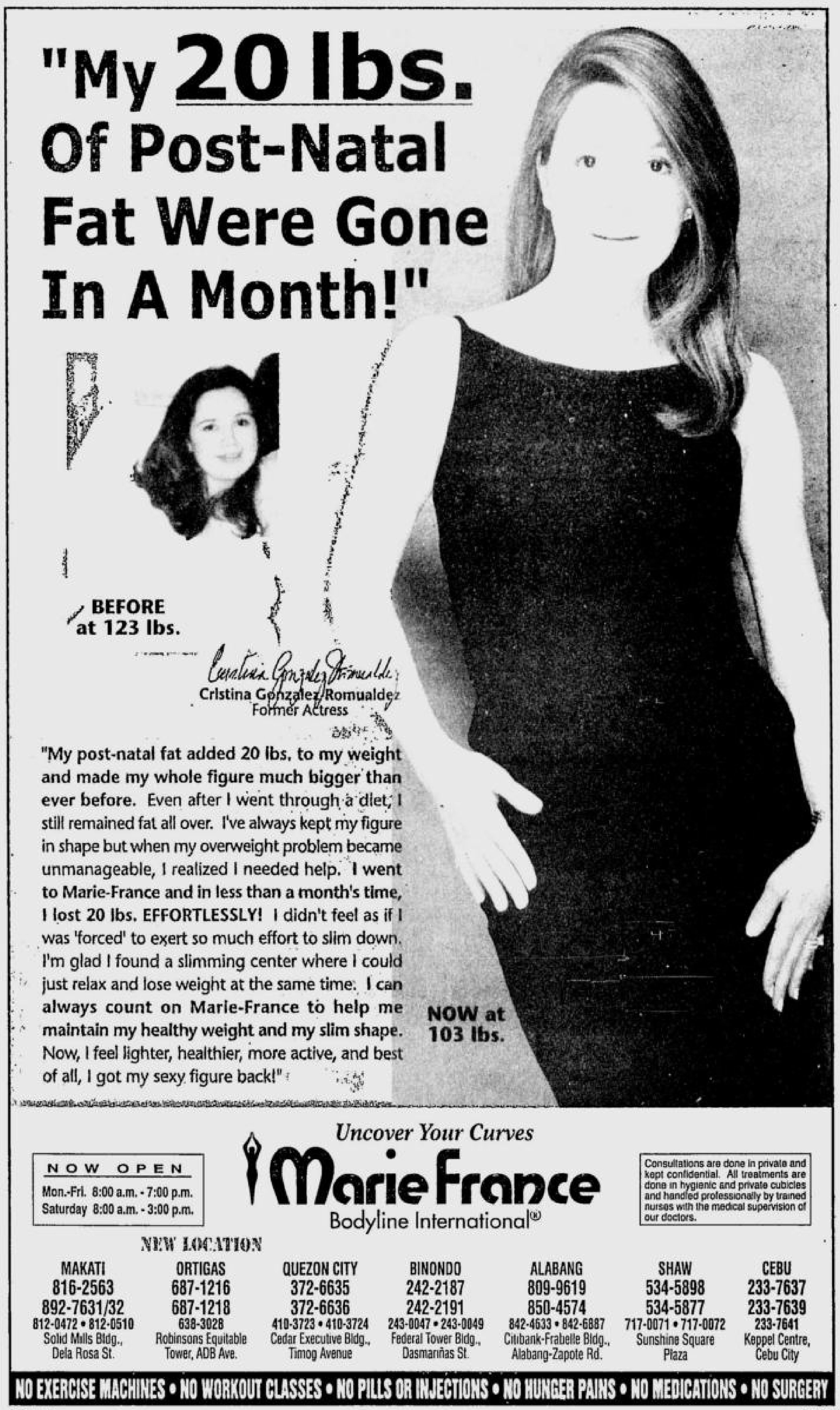
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Maceda behind bars; Miriam next

(From page A1)

President Estrada during the impeachment hearing, the Edsa II people hated my guts."

"What's my (weapon)? I also have lots of rocks in my house," he added sarcastically, apparently referring to the Estrada loyalists, most of whom were reportedly carrying knives, home-made shotguns and rocks during the attack on the Palace.

The charge against the suspected principal instigators was upgraded yesterday from inciting to sedition to rebellion, a non-bailable offense.

Senior Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, chief of the Philippine National Police Intelligence Group, said the modification was made because the government had been able to gather "very strong evidence" against the suspects.

Those facing the charge of rebellion are Maceda, reelectionist Senators Juan Ponce Enrile and Gregorio Honasan, former PNP chief Panfilo Lacson Jr., Brig. Gen. Jake Malajacan and Senior Superintendents Michael Ray Aquino and Cesar Mancao II, Berroya said.

Enrile was arrested Tuesday. He was not allowed to post bail of P12,000 following the upgrading of the charge. The others are still at large.

Berroya said authorities were determining what to do with the other suspected instigators—Director Victor Batac, former chief of the PNP directorate for police community relations, and Senior Supt. Diosdado Valeroso, research division chief of the Philippine Center for Transnational Crime—who surrendered to the police Tuesday.

He said those who would be charged with inciting to sedition were People's Movement Against Poverty president Ronaldo Lumbao and another PMAP member Cesar Tañega. Both are at large.

Maceda was taken to Camp Crame, accompanied by his sons and a lawyer, after his arrest at around 3 p.m. at his Manila residence by a team led by Berroya.

He said his warrantless arrest, made without informing him of the charge, was a violation of his constitutional rights.

He also denied having anything to do with the attack on Malacañang.

"At 66 years old, with a heart ailment and a diabetic, there is no rhyme or reason for me to engage in any stressful political adventurism," he said in a statement.

"Since my quadruple bypass operation, I have made peace with God. I take this as another opportunity for sacrifice and penance to offer to the Lord. I forgive those who persecute," he added.

Accused

Perez said at a press briefing that "the desire to use (Santiago) as a state witness has fizzled out."

He said Santiago's husband, former Interior Undersecretary Narciso Santiago Jr., had "denied" the request that she serve as state witness.

"The husband, who, I assume, is the spokesperson of Senator Santiago, has denied the request, and therefore we will not use her anymore. So if she's not going to be used as a state witness, she'll be used as an accused," Perez said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, who was in high spirits, expressed mock sadness when asked if the crime of rebellion would be bailable.

"You see, we have to follow the law. Even if it's bailable, they will be closely monitored to make sure that they don't do it again. And besides, they're still charged," she said.

Perez said more supposed plotters would be charged, including those who gave money, food or other forms of support to the loyalist protesters.

"(They will be charged with) conspiracy, (which holds that) the act of one is the act of all," Perez said.

Santiago and Lacson, both senatorial candidates of the Estrada-backed Puwersa ng Masa, yesterday filed separate petitions asking the Supreme Court to issue a temporary restraining order on authorities who would arrest them for rebellion.

They also questioned the President's move declaring a state of rebellion in Metro Manila, saying this was a paltry excuse for their warrantless arrest.

In particular, Santiago filed an urgent petition for mandamus with a TRO, asking the tribunal to stop the government from making warrantless arrests while the state of rebellion was continuing.

Santiago went personally to the Supreme Court yesterday afternoon and told reporters that Ms Macapagal had effectively suspended the privilege of the writ of *habeas corpus* because of the order for their arrest.

Aquino and Mancao, Lacson's protégés at the PNP, joined him in asking for a TRO to bar authorities from arresting and subjecting them to an inquest for the crime of rebellion.

The three men also asked that the high court allow the lifting of the hold-departure order issued against them.

But in case they are arrested, Lacson and company want the tribunal to issue a writ of *habeas corpus* directing those responsible for their arrest "to bring (our) bodies before this Honorable Court to show lawful cause of (our) continued imprisonment."

They cited as respondents Perez, Berroya and PNP chief Director General Leandro Mendoza.

False tip

At about noon yesterday, a team composed of about 50 intelligence agents of the PNP and the Armed Forces raided a residential compound in Quezon City on a tip that Honasan and Lacson were there.

But the fully armed agents who searched the Emerito Ramos compound at the Vista Valley Court along Katipunan Avenue did not find the two members of Philippine Military Academy Class of 1971.

Honasan's wife Jane said he would surrender to authorities, although she did not know when.

She said that he phoned her yesterday, and that she urged him to "better show yourself . . . or people would think you're guilty of something."

"I have been through this (before), and I told him I can't go through this kind of life again," Jane told reporters at the Senate yesterday.

She was referring to his life as a fugitive in the 1980s, in connection with the coup attempts that he led against the Aquino administration.

"This is history repeating itself," she said. "Our children were still babies then, and now they're teenagers and this is happening again."

"I am still conferring with the lawyers . . . don't worry," she quoted Honasan as saying during their phone conversation.

In an interview at the Isafp headquarters before the raid, Berroya said Honasan and Lacson were virtual fugitives.

"Certainly, their flight (would be) normally associated with guilt," he said. "The fact that they are hiding reinforces our suspicions that they are guilty."

Honasan and Lacson allegedly directed tactical operations in the May 1 loyalist march on Malacañang.

In a phone interview with the INQUIRER in Bacolod City, Pontevedra Vice Mayor Rio Diaz Cojuangco denied reports that Honasan and Lacson were hiding in the Cojuangco mansion in Hacienda Balbina, Pontevedra, Negros Occidental.

"I am here in Balbina and Lacson and Honasan are not here," the vice mayor said. "This is part of a series of bad things said about my father-in-law (business tycoon Eduardo Cojuangco) in an overall plan to discredit and alienate him from this administration."

Rio's husband is Cojuangco's son, Charlie, who is seeking a second term as representative of the fourth district of Negros Occidental.

The vice mayor said she was aware that reports that Honasan and Lacson were hiding in the Cojuangco estate were being spread through text messages.

She appealed to those responsible to be "kinder and fairer" to her father-in-law, as "(he) is not in politics anymore."

Government agents are likewise on the trail of Malajacan, also a member of PMA Class 1971, who served as Honasan's operations officer in the failed coup attempts against the Aquino administration and of Aquino and Mancao.

Berroya said this group might still attempt to mount an armed challenge to the government, although he expressed doubt about its capability.

He said that the group was already an "ex factor," and that "our seat of government is very safe and we can now move on."

Financier

The National Bureau of Investigation is preparing to arrest a supposed financier of the Estrada loyalists.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco told reporters yesterday that the government would use those arrested among the "mob" that stormed Malacañang as witnesses to pin down the financier whom he refused to name.

According to Wycoco, the supposed "financier of the failed rebellion" is an incumbent government official who is not seeking reelection and who is not a businessman."

He claimed that the government was now holding witnesses who could prove that the financier backed the loyalist rallies at Edsa and the attack on Malacañang with money, food, vehicles and medicines.

Wycoco also said most of those who were arrested during the Tuesday siege tested positive for drugs.

Leaders of militant groups said that to thwart further challenges, the Macapagal administration should dismantle the economic and political base of the Estrada camp and should not stop until all the "ringleaders" of the failed power grab were arrested.

"Unless these are done, the opposition will keep on trying to overthrow the government, just like what it did during the Aquino administration," Satur Ocampo, president of the party-list group Bayan Muna, said in a phone interview.

He said it was necessary to cripple Estrada's "financiers" to prevent them from organizing big rallies like those mounted by the loyalists at Edsa.

Rafael Mariano, chair of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan and the Kilusang Magbubukid sa Pilipinas, said the Estrada camp still managed to bounce back despite the arrest of its leader because its economic and political base was intact.

Both Ocampo and Mariano also stressed that plotters of the failed power grab should all be put behind bars.

Bayan Muna also questioned the government's plan to admit Santiago as state witness and the non-inclusion of Estrada son JV Ejercito in the charge sheet.

"Santiago and Ejercito, together with other Puwersa ng Masa candidates, must likewise be held accountable for orchestrating this plot which led to the destruction of life and property just to advance their own narrow interests," the group said.

Erap's allies

Estrada's allies rallied behind Enrile, Honasan, Santiago and Lacson, saying the arrest orders issued against them were "politically motivated."

According to Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino president and senatorial candidate Edgardo Angara, the arrests had "no basis."

"We condemn the arrest . . . I think (the arrest order) is politically motivated. The entire thing is politically motivated," Angara said in a news conference at the Club Filipino yesterday.

He expressed the belief that the arrests were part of a scheme to "silence" the opposition that began with the declaration of a state of rebellion.

But Angara urged Honasan and Lacson to follow Enrile's example and yield to police authorities. "They should follow the law," he said.

Senate Pro Tempore Blas Ople said the arrest orders were based on "flimsy allegations" and demanded the "immediate release" of Enrile.

"There's nothing to show that anybody had planned to overthrow the Arroyo government and install a civilian-military junta. It's only a figment of (the President's) imagination," he said. ***With reports from Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau; Michael Lim Ubac; Andrea Trinidad-Echavez; Dona Z. Pazzibugan; Christine Avendaño; and Leila Salaverria, Irene Andrea C. Perez, Anissa Apolinario, BR Guiruela and Katrina Zuño***

GMA urged to lift rebellion declaration

(From page A1)

president and senatorial candidate.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said Tuesday's riots did not warrant such a declaration, adding it was "meaningless unless there was an intention to declare martial law."

The Integrated Bar of the Philippines also condemned the declaration, saying there was no rebellion but merely "a state of lawless violence and perhaps sedition."

The country's association of lawyers said in a statement that the declaration of a state of rebellion was "obviously a prelude to, and justification for, a declaration of martial law or a suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus."

In his news conference, Belmonte said the President should immediately lift her declaration of a state of rebellion, saying the "situation now was pretty much under control."

"It's only making some people very nervous," he added.

Angara and other opposition leaders said Ms Macapagal was not justified in declaring a state of rebellion.

"You saw the people at Malacañang, they were unarmed. You cannot describe it as a public uprising. They were unarmed," Angara said.

"I'm convinced this is intended to silence the opposition and critics of the government," he added.

Former Defense Secretary Orlando S. Mercado, also an opposition senatorial candidate, urged the President to lift her order and send government troops back to the barracks.

"We are all in agreement that the worse is over," Mercado said as he appealed to Ms Macapagal to allow the Philippine National Police "to fully reassume its role as maintainer of law and order in Metro Manila."

Former Press Secretary Ricardo "Dong" Puno, also a senatorial candidate of the LDP-Puwersa ng Masa coalition, said there was no need for such a declaration, adding the government was "using a Howitzer to kill a fly."

Puno said that the government could clamp down on press freedom next.

LDP legal counsel Avelino Cruz said there was no rebellion in the first place, insisting that the mob at Mendiola "was not an armed group."

Santiago

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, who has filed a petition questioning the declaration in the Supreme Court, said no state of rebellion existed.

"Under accepted jurisprudence, what we have at most is a state of lawless violence or sedition in Metro Manila. Rebellion requires organization, huge masses of people, and the widespread use of arms. These requirements are absent," she said in a press statement.

Santiago said the "marchers at Mendiola did not seek to topple the government" but only to ask Ms Macapagal "to stop the transfer of President Estrada from the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City to a detention center in Sta. Rosa, Laguna."

Former first lady and senatorial candidate Luisa "Loi" Ejercito said security forces were to blame for Monday's violence.

She pointed out that her husband, former President Joseph Estrada, had been "compassionate" toward the anti-Estrada groups who marched on Malacañang on Jan. 20 at the height of Edsa People Power II.

"We were shocked and saddened when we learned that (the administration) had used excessive force to disperse the pro-Estrada supporters in Mendiola," she said.

The Integrated Bar of the Philippines said that the declaration of a state of rebellion was only intended to justify the warrantless arrest of senators identified with Estrada.

The IBP also argued that peace and order could be restored without the government resorting to such measures.

Cayetano

Sen. Renato Cayetano, however, defended Ms Macapagal's declaration of a state of rebellion as "legally and constitutionally correct."

Cayetano said it was a political decision "based on her own evaluation of the facts and reports that are available to her."

"Thus, the declaration of a state of rebellion is a political question," said Cayetano, chair of the Senate committee on justice and human rights.

"The President, to my mind, merely exercised her constitutional authority to declare that a rebellion exists as a matter of fact as a result of the public uprising and attack of Malacañang," Cayetano said.

He said the President was empowered by the Constitution to call out the Armed Forces of the Philippines "to prevent or suppress lawless violence, invasion or rebellion."

'Dead' cop hailed as living hero

(From page A1)

to counter criticisms that the police used excessive force in repelling Tuesday's attack on the Palace.

His photo taken by Reuters and printed by the INQUIRER on Page 1 on Wednesday showed him slumped on the ground and surrounded by a mob of rioters armed with huge rocks. Savedia had his finger on the trigger of his pistol but his other hand was holding the barrel.

"I told him that he has the qualities of a good policeman," the President told the INQUIRER after visiting Savedia in his rented room in Carola Street, Sampaloc.

The President gave Savedia a spot promotion and P50,000 in cash. PNP Chief, Director General Leandro Mendoza, gifted him a "gun of his choice," to replace the 357 Magnum that the attackers took from him.

"He chose a caliber .45," Mendoza told the INQUIRER.

Surprise visit

The lone police fatality, PO2 Rolando Abello, was promoted to the next higher rank. Abello, a member of the Plaza Miranda Police Community Precinct of the Western Police District (WPD), was shot dead by four armed men believed to be among the marchers to Mendiola from Quiapo.

The President also made a surprise visit to Camp Crame last night to express her gratitude for defending Malacañang.

She awarded the defenders the Presidential Unit Citation Badge and commended them for exercising "mega tolerance" despite the imminent danger to their lives.

Mendoza cited the sacrifices of 46 policemen wounded in action in the defense of the seat of power. Hit by shotgun pellets, clubbed or hit by rocks and other debris, they are now confined at the PNP General Hospital and at the Chinese General Hospital.

At a press briefing in the Palace, the President related that she asked Savedia why he did not fire at his assailants, who, he said, hit him with a 2x2 pole and were about to stone him to death.

"*Ganoon talaga ang* police (That's how policemen are)," she quoted him as saying in reply to her question.

Told about the police beating up demonstrators who were arrested as shown on TV, the President said those acts cannot be compared to what "they did to that policeman (Savedia) who exercised maximum tolerance up to what he thought was the last moment of his life."

"But God rewarded him and let him live," she said of Savedia.

Mendoza said an investigation of cops clubbing protesters is underway as "we do not tolerate abuses."

The attack

A member of the Civil Disturbance Management force from Police Station 3 of the WPD, Savedia recounted his ordeal to members of the People Power Coalition who also visited him.

"We were posted at Ramon Magsaysay Boulevard in Sta. Mesa. Other supporters were riding a truck. I was certain they came from San Juan. We decided to scamper away to avoid confrontation," Savedia said.

A stone that hit his foot prevented him from walking. Savedia recalled he pulled his gun and fired a warning shot but "they fell on the deaf ears."

"I could have easily killed them," he said in Filipino. "But I was thinking, they are not my enemies. They were just following orders. So what I did was just to close my eyes and let them attack me."

After ganging up on him, Savedia said his body seemed to have been paralyzed because he could not feel the succeeding blows.

"I was beaten, kicked, hit black and blue until I fell unconscious by the heavy pole that hit my back," Savedia continued.

The WPD cop extended his thanks to the Special Action Force when he came to at the hospital. "I thought they would finish me. They were thinking I was dead when I passed out. I thank my fellow policemen especially Inspector Baquiran."

Without vices

Based on an interview with the other renters at Savedia's two-story apartment, Savedia is a man without a vice. According to them, he does not drink or smoke and is not known to create trouble.

Asked about what he does in his spare time, a female boarder replied: "He washes his clothes and cleans his room."

Savedia pays P3,000 for his two-and-a-half by three-meter room.

A native of Quezon, Savedia, despite the objections of his parents, had always dreamed of becoming a cop. ***With a report from AFP***

'I have no intention of declaring martial law'

(From page A1)

whether the declaration of martial law was among her plans to put an end to the rebellion.

At the press conference, Ms Macapagal aired the assurance that human rights would continue to be respected under the state of rebellion.

"*Ang uusigin ng batas ay iyong mga kilalang lider ng rebelyon* (The law will go after those known leaders of the rebellion)," she said.

The President said assemblies of more than five people around Malacañang would be banned as part of measures against any resurgence of the most serious threat to her 100-day-old administration.

"Well, you've seen what they did. You've seen how I reacted to the provocation (Tuesday). I'm really very good and I reached out to people. I'm very reconciliatory. But if they break the law, as President I have no choice but to enforce the law and to defend the republic. And I will use the weapon in the Constitution that is suited to a particular kind of provocation," she said.

Not Gloria vs Erap

In a statement, the President said the issue was not herself against Estrada, one church against another, or the rich against the poor.

"The issue is democracy against abuse, the Constitution against dictatorship, justice against the flouting of the law," she said in Filipino.

She added: "The issue is about a case that has been filed in court. Our duty is to let justice prevail and the court to make its final verdict."

Two days after Estrada loyalists stormed the gates of Malacañang and were pushed back by law enforcers, the seat of power is still heavily guarded by at least five armored personnel carriers.

Marines were scattered on the Palace grounds, some of them dozing.

The President's spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao explained the military presence thus: "You know the military frame of mind. They usually prepare for the worst. That is SOP (standard operating procedure) for as long as the situation is not back to normal. As long as there is a threat, no matter how little, they are just being careful."

Despite her strong statements against future power grabbers, Ms Macapagal appeared relaxed and jovial.

She presided over a meeting of the Cabinet cluster on basic services, giving instructions to double the attention given to the poor.

In the morning, the Philippine Postal Authority presented her two commemorative stamps—one marking People Power II and the other, her oath-taking last Jan. 20 at the Edsa Shrine.

Presidential powers

Perez recalled that a memorandum to Ms Macapagal dated April 30 mentioned three presidential powers that she could exercise as commander in chief of the Armed Forces to quell the violence inflicted by the Estrada loyalists.

These include calling out the military to suppress lawless violence, invasion or rebellion; suspension of the privilege of writ of *habeas corpus;* and declaration of martial law.

"Given the situation obtaining as of Monday afternoon, we did not recommend" either of the last two powers, he said.

"What we recommended was for the President to exercise her power to call out the Armed Forces to suppress lawless violence, and that is assuming the people at Edsa would commit unlawful and violent acts," he added.

Perez said "subsequent events" that occurred after the Tuesday violence on Mendiola and J.P. Laurel streets also "justified the declaration of a state of rebellion and her call to the Armed Forces to suppress the 'uprising' and to restore peace and order."

"It should be pointed out that the President could call out the Armed Forces to suppress, not only lawless violence, but also invasion or rebellion," he said.

In a news conference early Monday evening, Perez said declaring a state of rebellion was already called for after the destructive acts committed by Estrada's supporters.

Perez's memo said that after the events that took place, "we still would not recommend the imposition of martial law or the suspension of the privilege of the writ of *habeas corpus* considering its negative impact on the people, both pro- and anti-Erap, who cannot seem to forget the dark days of martial rule under (Ferdinand) Marcos."

He also noted that in the unlikely event that Ms Macapagal decided to invoke those powers, she would enjoy "technically useless powers in view of the so many restrictions/limitations imposed by the Charter..."

"Unlike the 1935 and 1973 Constitutions, these two powers, under the present Constitution, have been diluted to such a degree that it becomes even politically risky to resort to the exercise of these two powers without any palpable gain . . . in return," he said.

Given the conditions imposed by the Constitution, Perez said, Ms Macapagal's instruction for the military to suppress lawless violence, invasion or rebellion, "which is viewed by some as a lesser power, would appear even to be the most potent power of the three."

He said this was because "the President's decision to call out the Armed Forces, which is wholly discretionary, will not be subject to congressional or judicial intervention."

"Under the circumstances," Perez concluded, "it is deemed to be the best option which may be pursued by the President."

Support

Despite criticisms of her declaration of a state of rebellion in Metro Manila, the President is not lacking in support from various sectors.

The Commission on Human Rights yesterday backed her decision, saying in a five-page advisory that it was her prerogative under Paragraph 1 of Article VII, Section 18 of the 1987 Constitution.

The advisory was signed by CHR Chair Aurora Navarrete-Recina and Commissioners Nasser Marohomsalic, Mercedes Contreras-Danenberg, Vicente Sibulo and Jorge Coquia.

But the CHR also reminded "the military forces, which may perform police functions, to observe full respect of human rights."

"Specifically, the rule on warrantless arrests under Rule 113 of the Rules of Court should be observed," it said.

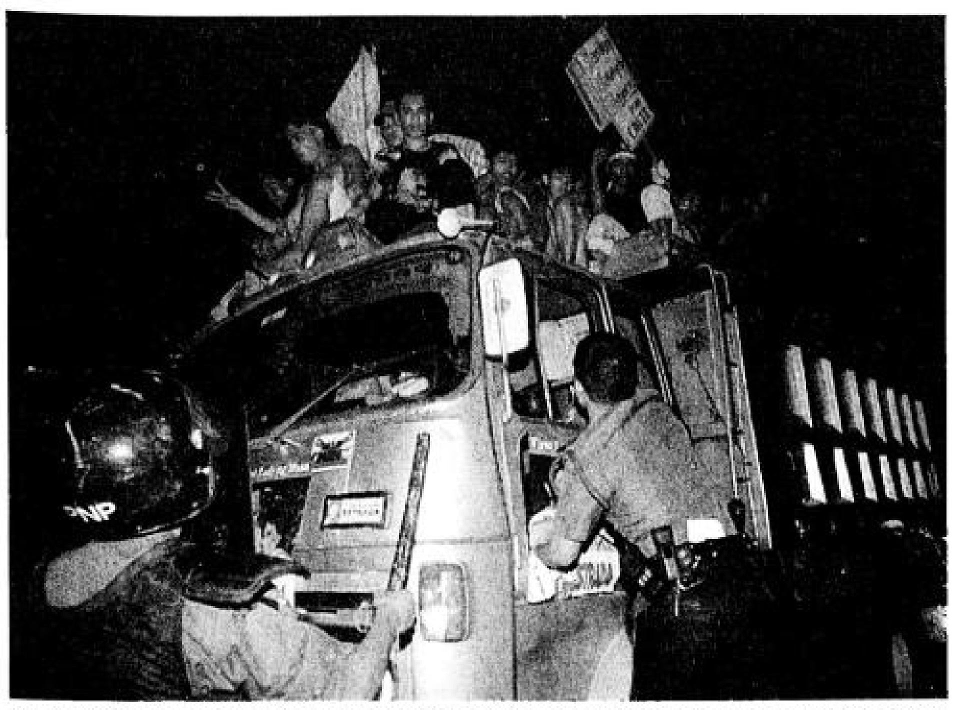
In Lucena City, People Power Coalition senatorial candidate Wigberto Tañada commended the President's handling of the May 1 siege, but warned that "there could be personalities behind the failed power grab who are still lurking in the dark."

Tañada dismissed fears that the declaration of a state of rebellion was a prelude to martial law.

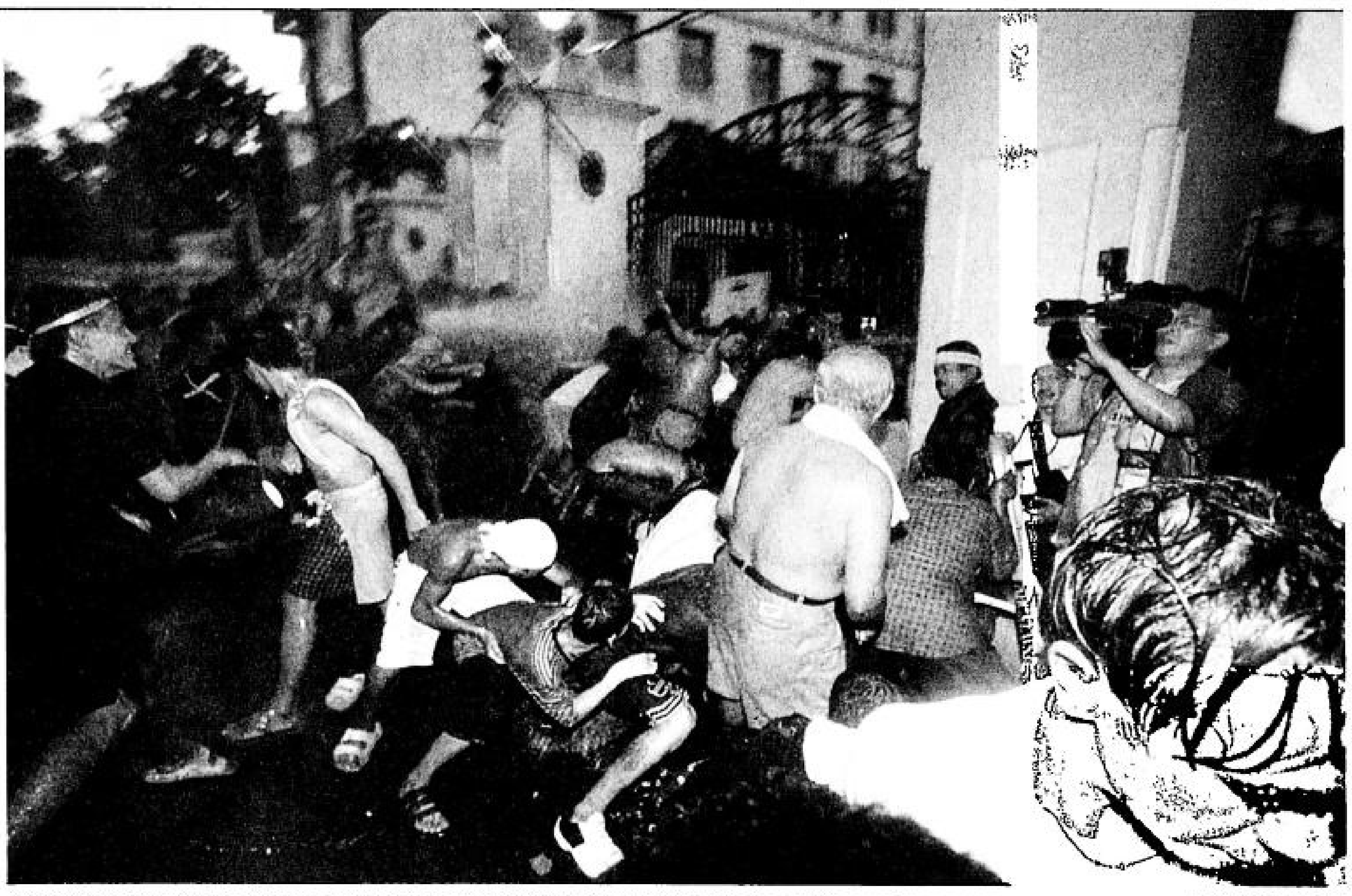
"This is not part of the course of action of the present administration. Besides, the state of rebellion only covers Metro Manila," he pointed out.

Statements of support were issued yesterday by 20 business groups, including the Makati Business Club, Bankers Association of the Philippines and Bishops-Businessmen's Conference; Human Rights Center of the Ateneo Law School; Senate Minority Leader Renato Cayetano; and Representatives Ignacio Bunye and Prospero Pichay. ***With reports from Andrea Trinidad-Echavez; Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bu-***

THEN AND NOW...



UNSTOPPABLE. Truck loaded with Estrada followers rammed through police barricade on its way to Mendiola at about 2 a.m. Tuesday. RANDY HORMILLOSA



THE WAY it was by the Palace gates after police tried to disperse the protesters with a water cannon. DENNIS SABANGAN

ESTRADA
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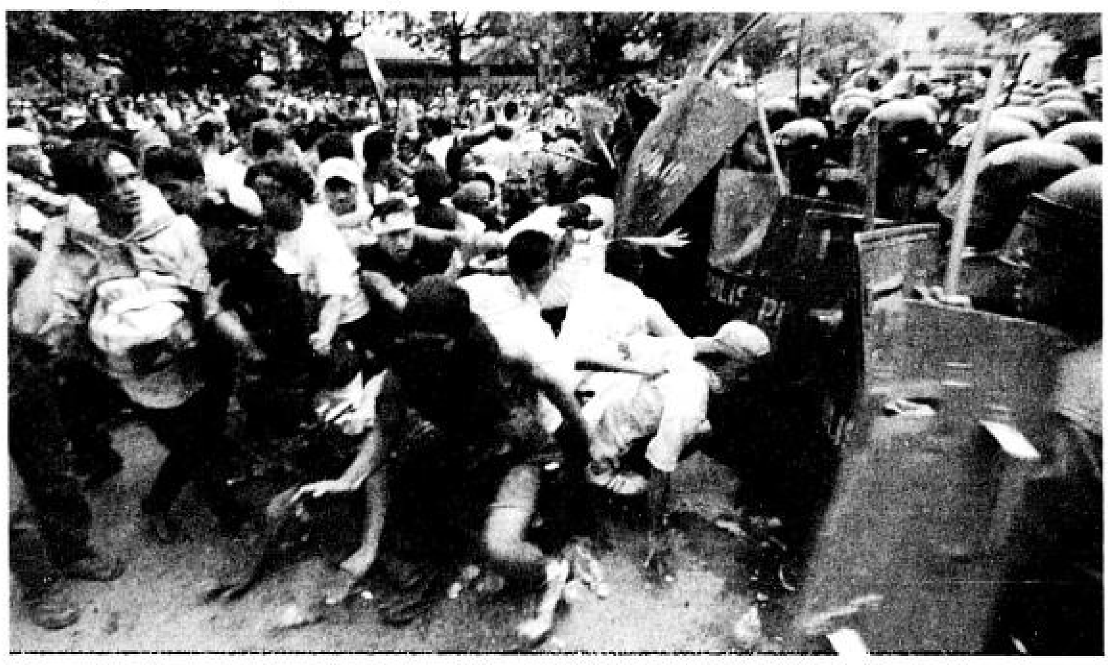
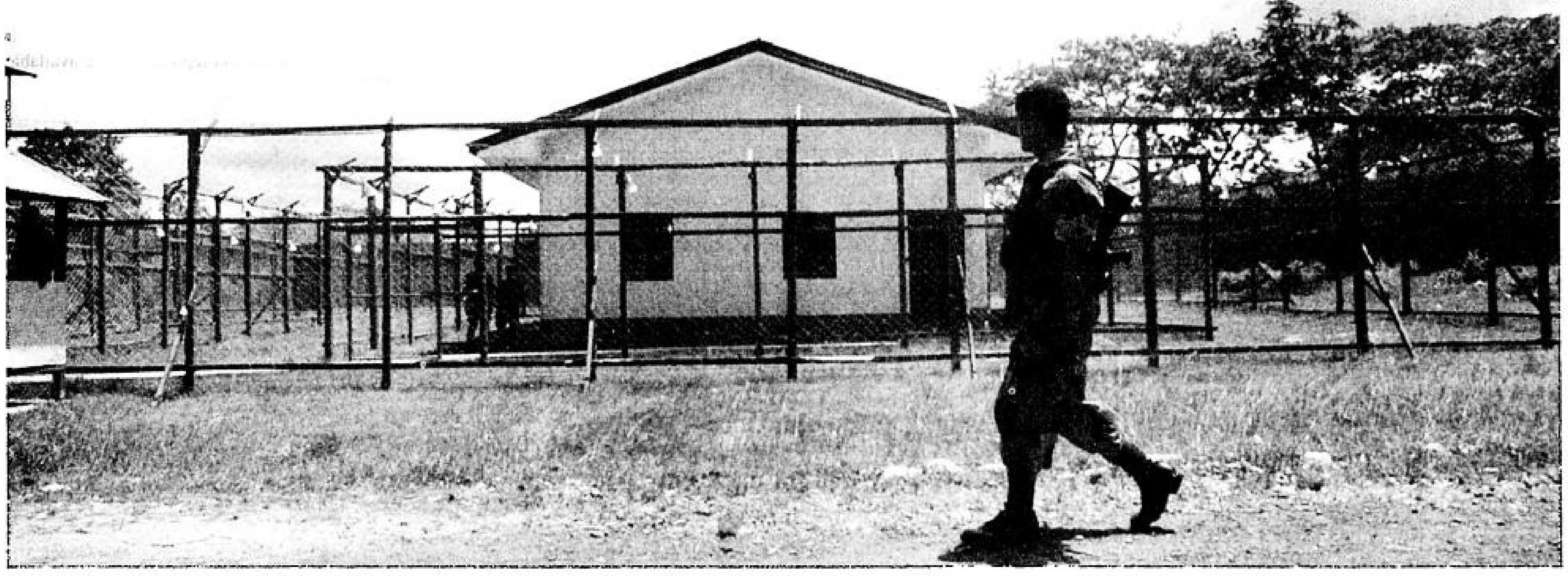
DAVAO CITY: Cop and a sleeping vendor share the stage at Rizal Park, the site of pro-Estrada rallies. GENE BOYD LUMAWAG

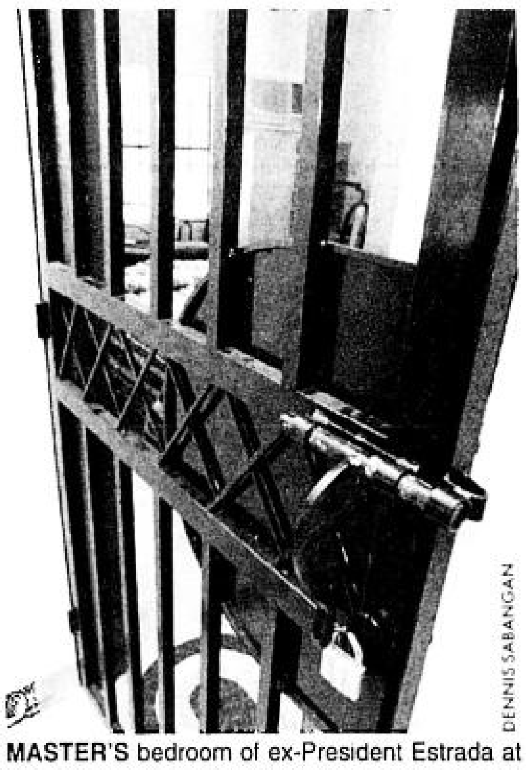
SUSPECTED plotter, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, now in detention.



DISPERSAL began in earnest at about 10 a.m. Tuesday. JESS YUSON



ESTRADA quarters at Fort Sto. Domingo is within three enclosures and patrolled 24 hours. DENNIS SABANGAN



DENNIS SABANGAN

MASTER'S bedroom of ex-President Estrada at Fort Sto. Domingo, Sta. Rosa, Laguna, is secured by a steel door with a double lock.

(From page A1)

State of rebellion, a constitutional oddity

duties and for how long depends on the President's discretion.

If calling out the armed forces is insufficient, the Constitution empowers the President in cases of invasion or rebellion ("lawless violence" is not included), and when the public safety requires it, to suspend the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus or place the country or any part of it under martial law.

The suspension of the privilege of the writ (the right of an arrested or detained person to question the legality of his arrest or detention) and the declaration of martial law shall not exceed 60 days, unless Congress agrees to its extension.

The declaration by the President of the existence of invasion or rebellion does not automatically carry with it the suspension of the privilege of the writ. The suspension has to be made separately from the declaration that an invasion or rebellion has arisen and that public safety requires such suspension.

Arrest warrant

For reasons known only to her and her legal advisers, President Macapagal did not include in her declaration of a state of rebellion in Metro Manila the suspension of the privilege of the writ.

Since the privilege of the writ remains in place, she is not covered by the 60-day limit on effectivity or obliged to report to Congress on that declaration.

The Constitution provides that if the privilege of the writ is suspended or martial law is declared, the President is required to report to Congress her action within 48 hours. Congress may, by a majority vote in joint session, revoke that suspension or proclamation.

With the privilege of the writ untouched and unimpaired, the rights to which the citizens are entitled to in relation to alleged criminal acts remain in place. These rights include the right against arbitrary arrest, prohibition on unreasonable searches and searches, and right to bail.

This means if any person is suspected of committing acts of rebellion, whether as a principal or instigator, the procedures provided for in the law on filing of charges, arrest and detention have to be followed.

These procedures are not suspended or set aside simply because a state of rebellion was declared by the President. There is no change in the duties and responsibilities of the prosecution arm of the government.

The judicial system continues to exercise its authority to be the source of warrants of arrests for crime suspects, unless the offense in question relates to a crime where a warrantless arrest is permitted by our laws.

The existence of rebellion in Metro Manila, assuming it is true, does not justify shortcuts or disregard of the established procedures on the indictment, arrest and detention of crime suspects.

The situation would be different if, after declaring a state of rebellion in Metro Manila, the President suspended the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus. In that case, any person charged with rebellion can be arrested and detained as long as the suspension remains in place.

Why Enrile was smiling

Thus, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile had reason to smile when the team of Senior Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, chief of the Philippine National Police intelligence group, came to his house to arrest him for the crime of rebellion.

Berroya was not armed with a warrant of arrest issued by a competent court in accordance with the Rules of Court.

At the time of his arrest, Enrile was not committing, had committed or was in the act of committing the crime of rebellion as to justify his warrantless arrest.

Neither did Berroya appear to have any personal knowledge of the acts of rebellion supposedly committed by Enrile that would authorize him (Berroya), in his capacity as a law enforcement officer, to arrest Enrile.

Enrile's lawyers have expressed their intention to question the legality of his arrest before the Supreme Court. Their chances of winning are bright.

It could be a reprise of the 1990 incident when Enrile was accused of rebellion with murder in connection with the aborted December 1989 coup attempt. The charges were dismissed when the court ruled that the crime of murder is absorbed by rebellion; they cannot be charged separately.

Tactical move

It is unlikely the legal advisers of President Macapagal did not know the inadequacies of her declaration of a state of rebellion in Metro Manila. The constitutional provisions relating to the acts that the President can take in the face of lawless violence, invasion or rebellion are clear and simple. Even a freshman law student can read and interpret them correctly.

President Macapagal's declaration has the makings of a tactical political move. It is aimed at sending a stern warning to the leaders and followers of deposed President Estrada that they will be dealt with severely in case they persist with their alleged destabilization acts.

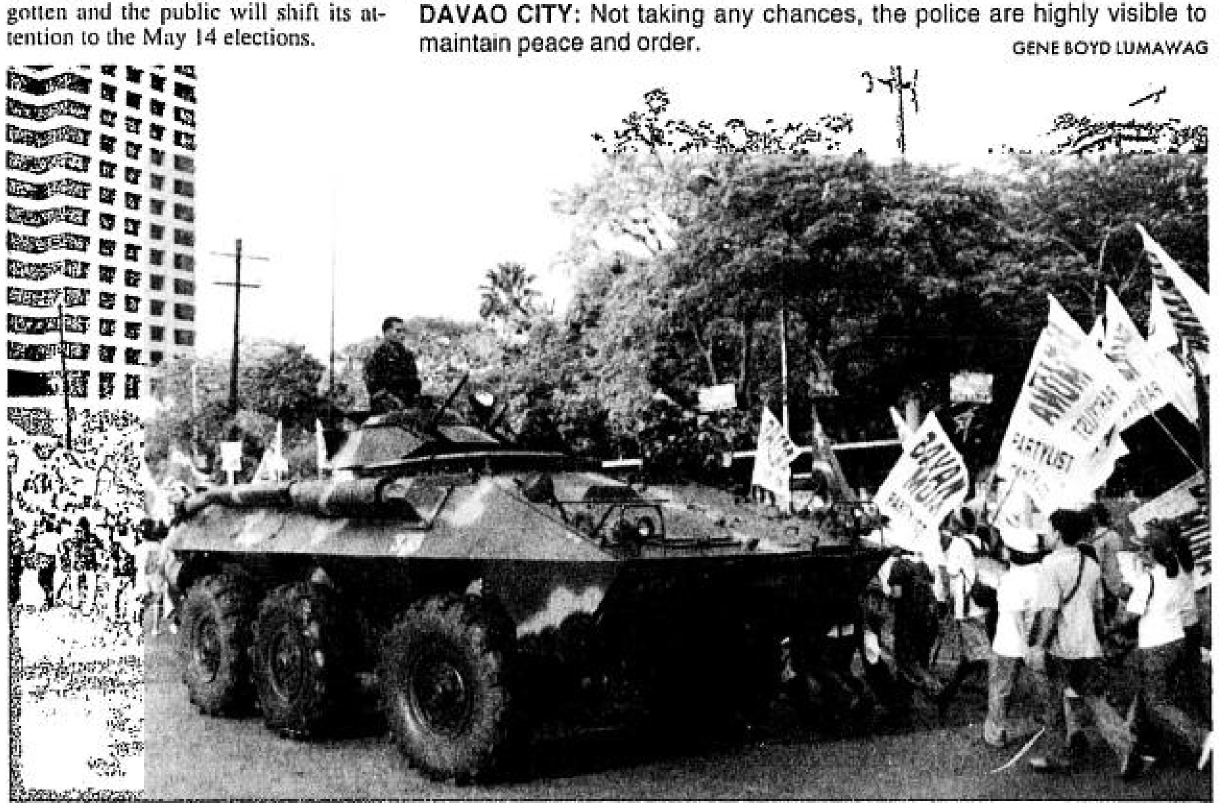
From the looks of it, that message has served its purpose. The alleged ring leaders of the abortive attack on Malacañang have clamped up (or are in hiding) and the followers are nowhere to be found.

Fearless forecast: Before the week is over President Macapagal will lift her declaration of a state of rebellion in Metro Manila. Any action filed in court questioning the validity of the warrantless arrests made pursuant to that declaration will be dismissed for being academic.

When that happens, all questions relating to the declaration will be forgotten and the public will shift its attention to the May 14 elections.

ENRILE
ENRILE
ENRILE

DAVAO CITY: Not taking any chances, the police are highly visible to maintain peace and order. GENE BOYD LUMAWAG



MILITARY presence looms large at the Edsa Shrine which has been reclaimed by Edsa II forces as well as in other areas vulnerable to occupation by Estrada supporters. LAWRENCE CHIN

OPINION

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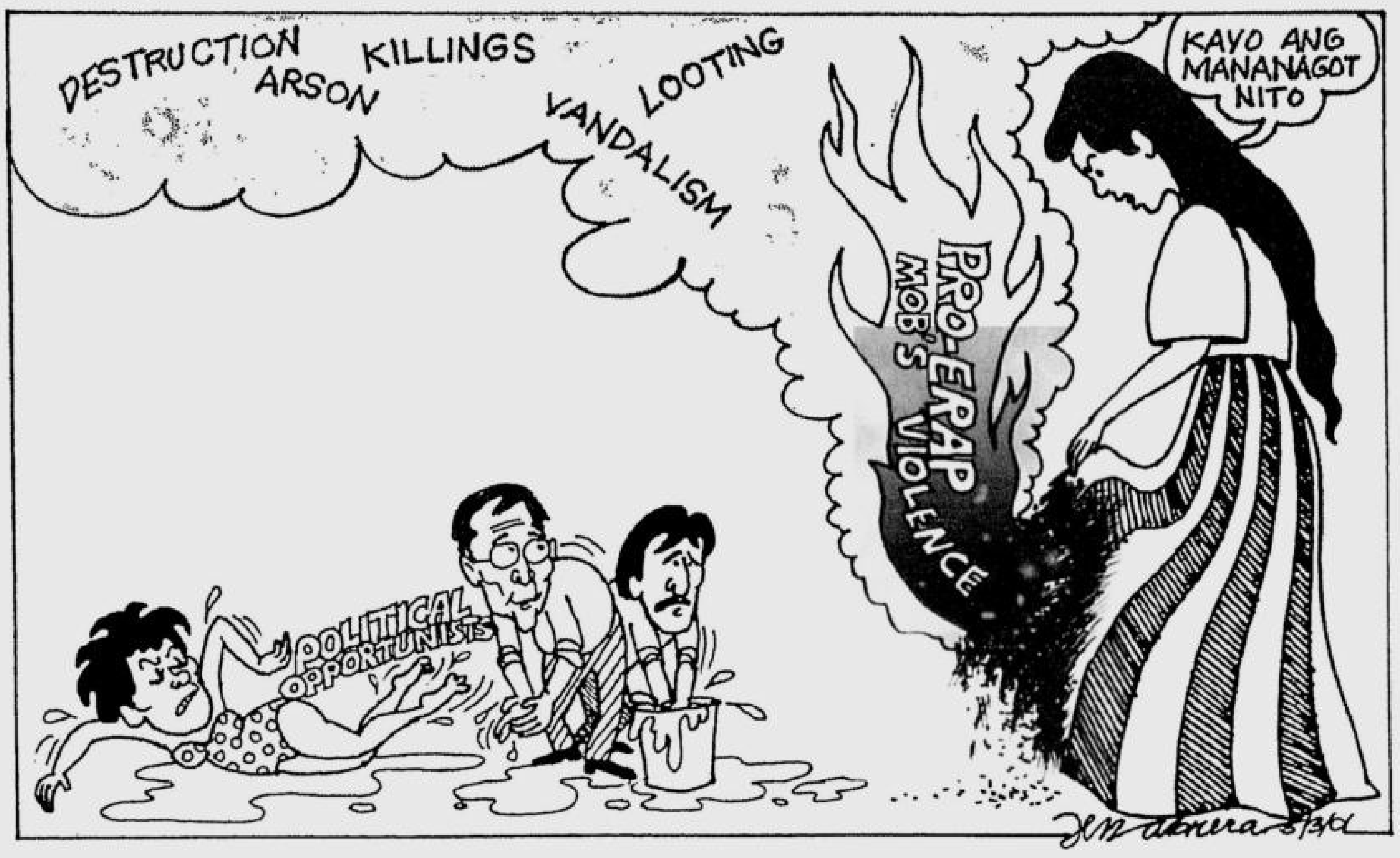

Good work

EDITORIAL

THE REUTERS photo we carried on the front page yesterday of the policeman being beaten by pro-Estrada supporters tugs at the emotions not only because of what was done to the victim but also because of what he chose not to do.

The police officer (who was first reported to have been killed, but turned out to be alive) never let go of his service revolver. He prevented the mob that attacked him from using it on him or on others; and even more telling, he restrained himself from using it on his attackers.

His actions dramatized the debt of gratitude the Filipino people owe to the men and women who defended Malacañang. As usual, the estimates of the size of the crowd that stormed the Palace vary. There may have been as many as 50,000 who started the march from the Edsa Shrine, with (according to one report) JV Ejercito leading the way until the intersection of Ortigas Avenue and Wilson Street in San Juan. There may have been only a few thousands left during the second and third assaults on Gate 7. But that only three people died is a measure of the professional, calibrated and effective way by which the military and the police defended the country's legitimate government.

We do not belittle the significance of the deaths that occurred. Four deaths (the toll includes one policemen and three protesters) are four too many. But there were thousands of reasons for the events of May 1 to go drastically wrong. That the siege of Malacañang did not turn into a bloodbath testifies to the successful post-martial law, post-coup transformation of the armed services.

In January 1987, less than a year after the dictator Ferdinand Marcos was deposed and Corazon Aquino assumed office, a farmer's demonstration at the foot of Mendiola Bridge turned tragic. The farmers had not set out to lay siege to Malacañang, but the Palace guard turned jittery and fired on the demonstrators. Thirteen people died in what is now known as the Mendiola massacre.

At that time, the new administration was still establishing control over a heavily politicized military (which included what was then known as the Integrated National Police). After 20 years of Marcos rule, 14 of them under martial law, civilian supremacy over the military had been reduced to a meaningless principle. For military men shaped in the martial law mold, a crowd of peaceful demonstrators was not the sovereign people exercising their freedom but a threat to national security.

This lack of appreciation for the role of civilians in a constitutional democracy was abetted by a dangerous attitude of adventurism, encouraged by the likes of Col. Gregorio Honasan. The nation has paid a high price for this adventurism. In August 1987, 53 persons were killed and 300 were wounded in a coup attempt led by Honasan. In December 1989, in another Honasan-led power grab, the casualty toll was higher: 113 dead and 500 wounded.

In each instance, the renegade units were subdued by mainstream military and police forces who did not only bring superior force to bear on the rebels but also occupied the moral high ground, as defenders of the Constitution. Today, the professionalism of the armed services, and their loyalty to the Constitution are a matter of record. These were on display on May 1.

To be sure, lapses occurred for which police and military authorities must be faulted. Two, in particular, cry out for redress.

In spite of advance information, the police barricades on the marchers' route remained woefully undermanned, and thus failed to deter the crowd. On the contrary, it is entirely possible that each successive breaching of a barricade (there were five altogether) only served to embolden the mob.

And, in full view of the cameras, several irate policemen punched or kicked or truncheoned suspects being taken into custody. They may have succumbed to the passions of the moment, but their behavior remains inexcusable.

But on the whole, the performance of the police and military forces that answered the call to defend the seat of power was professional, calibrated and effective. When all is said and done, they remained solidly behind the constitutional order and defended the country's duly constituted authority with maximum tolerance and minimum loss of lives.

Postscript

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I WROTE my column yesterday before government issued its arrest warrant on Juan Ponce Enrile and company. I most wholeheartedly applaud its decision to do so, as I suggested myself, although I cannot understand why Miriam Defensor-Santiago isn't included in the order.

The crime isn't just a coup attempt, it is sending the horde at Edsa down on Malacañang. From where I stand the second is the worse crime. I do not mind that people plot themselves silly and try to get others to go along with them. At least that entails a risk. But I do mind that they send the poor to do their dirty job. I do mind that they send the innocent--and angry--to the slaughter. That is contemptible.

I saw Ronaldo Puno on TV last Tuesday afternoon denying vigorously that any one of them thought or plotted to overthrow the government. Indeed, insisting that all of them were one in trying to dissuade the crowd at Edsa from marching to Malacañang. Well, I leave them and government to match wits, or squabble, whichever comes first, over whether they mounted a coup plot or not. But they may not escape their responsibility for the riot at Mendiola. That they tried to stop it is merely their say-so. The footage of 'Edsa III," which is prima facie evidence, as all of them who are lawyers know, shows otherwise.

It shows Enrile and Santiago and several others shouting "*Sugod*! *Sugod*!" and generally whipping up the crowd to a frenzy. Maybe they realized too late the effects of their exhortations when the crowd did start moving in the direction of Malacañang with rocks and lead pipes, probably with Asistio's tattooed protégés in front, and tried to stop them. But they cannot wash their hands off the ensuing mayhem. You condition people's minds for days to riot, and they do riot, you are culpable, whatever your convictions are at the last minute.

I saw Jun Santiago, Miriam's not very saner half, say as well on TV that "Edsa II" itself reeked with seditious statements. Possibly, and I am sure that if its own march at Mendiola had failed, Erap would have arrested its leaders too. But quite apart from that, there is a monumental difference on moral grounds at least, if not legal ones, in the way the leaders of "Edsa II" initiated the action at Malacañang and the way the leaders of "Edsa III" did.

The first was a calculated use of force. The generals had already defected by then, and key government officials had already resigned. The Left, which carried out the march as one last ounce of pressure on Erap, did so with meticulous care to avoid bloodshed--as a former adversary, Lisandro Abadia, himself would attest to later on, which was why he endorsed it. Of course it was always possible that blood would be spilled—if Erap's armed contingent had tried to break up the march. But Erap himself could not reasonably have expected that march to turn into a frenzy of burning and looting. There was no possibility of that.

The second was just pure spite. To this day, I cannot understand why the leaders of "Edsa III" allowed it to happen when it had absolutely no point and merely stood to turn public opinion against them. But as I've said, rationality is not their strongest suit, and sanity is certainly not Santiago's. No one, not even the most ardent supporter of "Edsa III," could possibly not have expected that march to turn into an orgy of violence. There was no other possibility.

Later, witnesses would say the eyes of those who led the march and hurled rocks at the shielded cops and rushed them even while they fired their Armalites in the air were alternately glazed and bloodshot. Which they attributed to drugs: The marchers must have been high on *shabu*, they said, nothing else could explain their suicidal bravado. Joey Lina, the interior secretary, would say he immediately ordered those arrested to be tested for it.

But there is a drug more powerful than *shabu*, and that is anger. Maybe some of them had taken *shabu*, but most, if not all, of them would have been overdosing only on anger. An anger they had felt all their lives for getting a raw deal on life, an anger that had been whetted, like the appetites of ferocious dogs kept without food in kennels for days, by the relentless stoking of wounds by Enrile, Santiago, Gregorio Honasan, Panfilo Lacson, Ernesto Maceda, and their ilk. An anger that had then been pointed in the direction of government—or more than government, society itself—like those same starved ferocious dogs unleashed from the kennels with the instruction: Kill!

Maybe they will find traces of *shabu* in the bodies of some of those they arrested. But in the rest they will find only traces of teargas. I do not know that anger leaves a residue in the blood.

"March," "demonstration" and "mass action" are words that are alien to what happened at Mendiola last Tuesday. They stick to it like oil to water. I can only compare what happened last Tuesday to something resembling an old Jodie Foster movie called "The Accused," where one man goads a group of men to gang-rape a woman. In the end, he doesn't just get to be convicted of the crime too, he gets to be deemed as its true author. Or I can only compare what happened last Tuesday to those movies where racist leaders goad their ardent supporters or mindless sympathizers with their reckless words to lynch a black person. In the end, they too get to be deemed the true authors of the murder and convicted of the crime.

The last comparison is literal in this case. There is one image that has stuck in my head over the last few days, and that is the cop that was bludgeoned by the mob in Mendiola last Tuesday morning. The cop had been felled by a rock, and while he lay on the pavement clutching his knee, a group of rioters armed with wooden clubs, lead pipes and rocks swarmed all over him and beat him to a pulp. His companions could do nothing, and ran away. Those few seconds, when the mob approached, hesitantly at first, and then in a rush, surrounding him like a dark shroud, their arms rising and falling—in my mind now in constant slow motion—those few seconds will be burned in the national conscience forever. That scene is a symbol of national shame. It is an open wound that will fester in the body politic for a long time.

It is also a very literal crime that cries for justice. Thankfully, the cop survived the attack and is now recuperating. But he was a poor man too, someone who went there to do his job to put food on his family's table. Now look at that scene again: And wonder whose hand really raised those wooden clubs and lead pipes and rocks and struck at him while he lay in the dark on the pavement begging for mercy.

* * *

Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia.com

May Day Mayday

WINDMILLS

Jerry Barican

IT is impossible at this early date (this is written Tuesday afternoon) to draw conclusive lessons over, or make predictions about, the events of the days just past without being either premature or glib. Even as I write, the ground beneath my feet is shifting as events are outpacing the ability to analyze them effectively.

Just yesterday evening, I believed that the crisis had been defused by a compromise. The rallies at Edsa over the last few days, though passionate and irreverent, were by and large peaceful although occasionally a roughed-up member of media might disagree. Even those who reviled the ralliers recognized their right to peaceful assembly to express their grievances.

The rhetoric, however, was beginning to be ratcheted up on both sides. Each demonized and insulted the other. The media were clearly split. Most ignored the rally completely; Channel 25 gave it full coverage. The situation seemed to be coming to a boil.

By Monday evening, however, the government and elements of the disgruntled ralliers seemed to be reaching out to each other. The language at the President's news conference hinted at the possibility of a dialogue and a softer line. Channel 25 went off the air, leading many to believe that this was part of a deal to cool tempers down. Many hoped the danger of military intervention had been avoided and that the crisis would do no further harm to the economy.

Those budding hopes proved forlorn by Tuesday morning, with results that are evident enough for all to see. The main tasks ahead for the government and society are to cool tempers and rhetoric, especially over the mass media, and to restore public peace.

There is little doubt the latter will occur, at least in the short run. Even for the larger group of ralliers at Edsa earlier, the splinter that went toward Malacañang was too radical. They were spoiling for a fight. They were maddened by the deprecating references to them in media. They seemed to have no identifiable leader, no clear agenda, except the improbable one of restoring former President Estrada to power, no political coalition or unequivocal support at all outside their own numbers at Mendiola.

Later, the government would see in this seeming irrationality the unseen hand of unsuccessful military plots against it. The government claimed to see not merely a riot but a rebellion. By the afternoon I am writing this, charges are already flying thick and warrantless arrests for political crimes, unseen in the Philippines before Ferdinand Marcos' suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus in 1971, and after 1986, were back.

That the President would prevail was never in doubt. A society will always choose order over disorder. The major institutions of society had already began to coalesce around President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. One after another, they lined up in support: the Church, the business community, the police, the military, the bureaucracy, the media, organized labor, NGOs, even the Left. The only doubts were over some of the government's means to crush the rioters, not its ends.

Some broad outlines of what will follow are easy enough to see. The rampage will spend itself. Charges will be laid against several opposition figures. The government's position will suffer a significant short term hit at the foreign exchange and stock markets, then rebound when order is restored. Simultaneously, the longer-term prospects for new investments will grow more bleak. The index of political stability for the foreign community may no longer be the 2001 elections, but those in 2004. All this is not good news.

Beyond their search for responsibility, the government needs to heal the nation. Abraham Lincoln's response to a lady who wanted him to destroy his enemies in the South rather than make friends with them still resonates 140 years later, "Why, madam, do I not destroy my enemies when I make them my friends?" If at the successful end of a long and bloody civil war Lincoln could speak of malice toward none and charity for all, wise leadership may yet bring our nation back together.

For now, the opposition is on the defensive. It has the perhaps impossible task of disassociating itself from the violence of Mendiola while at the same time not abandoning many of their supporters. If, however, the administration overreacts, it risks recreating sympathy for the opposition at the polls this May or later. As often in battle, it is the mistakes of the opponent and not one's own strengths that prove decisive.

As for the blame either side has to take, they will eventually write books about it. There is certainly enough to go around. Still, it is a statement in itself of the sense of isolation and abandonment of the poor that they continue to place their fervent hopes in Joseph Estrada and reject the institutions both inside and outside government that claim to speak for empowering them. Those frustrations need to be addressed, not contemptuously dismissed. And the ordinary poor participants arrested at Mendiola against whom there is no direct evidence of murder should be released quickly.

The most fortunate outcome of these events is that we have not replaced constitutional government with a military government. The worst parts are that the role of the military in sustaining governments has been markedly increased and that arrests without warrants for political offenses have returned for the first time since the martial law era of Ferdinand Marcos, making a mockery of the Bill of Rights. It was Mayday on May Day.

GMA wins yuppy vote with post-mob performance

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

YESTERDAY I noted a lawyer-friend's observation about President Macapagal's attire and unmade-up look in her very first TV appearance after the mob launched its attack on Malacañang. Ms Macapagal appeared in a long-sleeved knit shirt sans makeup and looking tired, as though she had been jogging all night. The lawyer said he would have wanted to see the President face the entire world at that moment in a suit, as befitting a commander in chief, surrounded by her entire Cabinet, in command of the situation.

My friend is right about the impact of appearances, but Ms Macapagal certainly made up for that rush job. In her subsequent appearances, including a press conference, she certainly exuded enormous confidence, strength and a lot of spunk. In fact I got reactions from a number of yuppies who had earlier not been true believers, but who were just overwhelmed by yesterday's appearance of Ms Macapagal. They particularly liked that portion of her press conference when she was asked by a reporter if she would apply "reasonable force" to crush any coup attempt. Ms Macapagal replied that she would "use force without the adjective." To the yuppy generation, Ms Macapagal is now A-okay.

Later last Monday, my family and I took a good friend who's visiting for three days, a Japanese executive now based in Arizona by the name of Akihito Mori, to dinner and he said he watched the events in Manila all day in his hotel room. Akihito, who comes from the land of machismo, found Ms Macapagal "so cute" and "so courageous." "Such guts for such a tiny girl," he kept saying.

* * *

Up to now the people are talking about the maximum tolerance that the police and military authorities exercised toward the rioting mob, some of whom were, as tests have shown, plainly under the influence of drugs. The mob was already pounding at the gates of the Palace, but the soldiers kept their cool from behind the gate. Later, in the face-to-face confrontation with the rioters, the soldiers, armed with M-16s, refused to fire and merely used their clubs on the defiant ones. The discipline displayed by the troops was admirable.

UP Law Prof. Meilou Sereno, in a PTV-4 talk show that morning, pointed out that the enormous discipline displayed by the troops as well as the fact that no military or police unit apparently joined the coup attempt, despite reports of juicy financial rewards being dangled, showed that the military has matured.

* * *

Amado Bagatsing, who's now running for mayor in a three-cornered fight in Manila against Mayor Lito Atienza and former Mayor Alfredo Lim, didn't pass up the chance to hit Atienza over the violent mob rule displayed in Manila last Monday and how the opposition, including Atienza, had abandoned the mob to its wiles. Bagatsing decried that Atienza had shown up at the Edsa Shrine to urge the crowd to support Estrada, but in the march toward Malacañang he and the other leaders were nowhere to be seen.

I chatted with Bagatsing while waiting for our turn to guest on some talk shows last Monday, and he said he was bound to benefit from the raging controversy over who was the bigger friend of alleged drug lord Kim Wong—Atienza or Lim. Bagatsing said Atienza actually lost the 1998 elections based on the following logic: Bagatsing beat Atienza in their district, the 5th district. Jimmy Lopez won over Atienza in his district in Tondo, while Ernesto Maceda won in his district in Sampaloc. All of Atienza's three opponents won in their own district, while Atienza lost in his district; so how did he win as mayor? Bagatsing asked. He said it was a statistical improbability for Atienza to win the mayoralty on an 81-percent voter turnout, when only 65 percent voted for the vice-mayoralty won by Danny Lacuna.

* * *

Former UP president Jose V. Abueva, who guested on the same show, pointed out that from 1972, when martial law was declared, up to 1985, the military was aligned with the dictator Ferdinand Marcos. But from 1986, the Edsa Revolution, Abueva noted how the military changed its role and became truly the protector of the people, as the Constitution mandated. Someone asked whether the huge crowd at "Edsa III" could influence the military to defect. Abueva replied that it had nothing to do with the size of the crowd but the principle for which the people were fighting. "*Kailangang may prinsipyo o batayan,*" he said.

Abueva also made an interesting confession on TV. He and many other UP people were enticed to vote for Joseph Estrada because they thought he would really be "Erap *para sa masa.*" Now, said Abueva, all the UP people realize how wrong they were.

I have heard many fellow UP alumni make the same *mea culpa.* As my good friend, lawyer Eliseo Alampay Jr. put it, "*Kinumpisal ko na ang* mortal sin *ko ang bumoto para kay* Erap."

* * *

Speaking of Abueva, a few months back I wrote about the new Kalayaan College (KC) in Marikina's Riverbanks Center which he founded, together with a number of former UP officials and professors, in time for opening next month. The former UP officials is offering KC as an alternative high-standard school for those who may be unable to get into the University of the Philippines due to its restrictive quota system. Abueva said KC is off to a good start, but like any new school, it could use more students (target admission this school year is 500 students).

That KC could be a welcome alternative to a UP education can be gleaned from some facts. Because of UP's well-known high quality but low tuition, about 65,000 students nationwide took the qualifying exams for admission (Upcat) in June. But among the nearly 42,000 who wanted to study in UP Diliman, the flagship campus, only 3,747 new students are being admitted because of the college quotas. Those who want to try KC may inquire at its e-mail address, Kalayaan@impactnet.com, or visit it at the Riverbanks Center, Marikina. Enrollment starts today and will last up to the first week of June.

Cleaning up

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

AT 4 A.M. of May 1, my friend Noli Yamsuan, a mainstay of the Edsa Shrine community and a renowned photographer, got a text message from Msgr. Soc Villegas, parish priest of the Edsa Shrine, to "join us and reclaim the Shrine."

"But I misunderstood the message and thought he meant to 'clean the shrine,'" said Noli. Thus, he drove to the shrine all ready for a cleanup, with brooms and pails and detergent. When he got there, he saw that his services were indeed urgently needed.

"My first impression of the scene," he recounts, "was that it was no longer the shrine, but a smaller version of Smokey Mountain." Because Erap loyalists had been burning the garbage that had been piling up, smoke curled up from mounds of trash and refuse. "And when I reached the top, to the fiberglass roof on which the image of Our Lady of Edsa stands, the stench was so overpowering I had to fight back the urge to puke."

There was evidence that some families had taken to living on the roof of the Shrine throughout the five days that the pro-Erap forces "occupied" it. There were makeshift tents and folding beds, as well as soggy lengths of cardboard that had apparently been used as mattresses. And what did they use as bathrooms? Noli found a shabby lean-to, fashioned from cartons set against the fiberglass roof, and beneath it human waste. The folks had literally been shitting at Our Lady's feet.

Later that morning, Noli and the others on the cleanup crew were joined by more volunteers, including his own family, nuns and religious summoned by Jaime Cardinal Sin and concerned citizens. Later, fire-fighting hoses were brought in to wash away the accumulated grime, while chlorine was employed to deaden the stench. But still, when I dropped by at around 11 a.m., there still lingered in the air traces of the odor that must have grabbed by the throat anyone who entered the shrine the previous days.

* * *

WHEN Noli arrived at dawn at the Edsa Shrine, there were still remnants of the thousand-strong throng that gathered there the night before. "There were about 200 of them, and they were all huddled around radios, listening to the coverage of the march to Malacañang. But when they heard news of how the soldiers and police were turning away the mob, one by one, they started to drift away."

As police and military troops arrived, they surrounded the few remaining loyalists who peacefully and silently walked away, abandoning the site of their massive protests.

The Edsa Shrine had been not so much retaken as reclaimed, and the sight left its caretakers feeling not jubilant or triumphant, but sad and sickened.

There was evidence of thievery. Monsignor Soc reported that two of the Stations of the Cross on the rooftop, metal bas reliefs depicting stages of Our Lord's passion, had been yanked off and stolen. A biblical saying proclaiming the shrine as the Lord's sacred place had adorned the front wall, spelled out in gleaming brass letters. Now it's gone, the brass letters systematically torn off, perhaps to be sold to *mambabakal* along with manhole covers and bridge railings.

* * *

THE SCENE at the shrine late Tuesday morning was cheery enough. Sweaty volunteers in clean-up gear mingled at the lower level with police and soldiers in camouflage uniform. At the command center on the second floor, volunteers were already fielding phone calls and coordinating the flood of donated food and drinks for the Mass and rally scheduled that afternoon.

Shortly after my arrival, AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva strolled in with a uniformed contingent to give a briefing to an assembled group of Cabinet members and leaders of civil society. Earlier, I had spotted Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman clad in rally gear—*maong* pants, T-shirt, rubber shoes and bandana. Because I had seen her the day before seated near the President at a Malacañang press conference, I teased her about "looking NGO" again. But clearly, this was her preferred getup.

Significantly, all the Cabinet members present at the briefing were women. Aside from Soliman, there was Labor Secretary Pat Sto. Tomas, who would otherwise have been addressing huge gatherings of organized labor on that day, International Labor Day. Budget Secretary Emy Boncodin was silent but focused as an officer detailed the security arrangements. Ging Quintos Deles, convenor of the National Anti-Poverty Council, was shuttling between the briefing and coordinating moves with other NGOs.

* * *

PEACHY, Noli's wife, reminded me that during the People Power II protests, "we made it a point to organize the cleanups." Yes, the crowd at Edsa Dos were just as messy (though the rooftop was off-limits), but the organizers made it a point to have clean-up brigades on hand early each morning.

As I said at the start of the farcical copycat Edsa protest staged by Erap loyalists, "by their actions you shall know them." If the leaders of that protest could not even give the hosts of their staged protest due respect for their (reluctant) hospitality, how could you expect them to respect their own followers?

Before the day drew to a close, another sort of cleanup was taking place. With unseemly and panicky eagerness, leaders of the Puwer(s)a (a)ng Masa quickly washed their hands of the blood of the marchers and police killed in the botched "taking" of Malacañang. "It's way past Holy Week," commented someone on radio, "but we're still hearing so many Pontius Pilates."

But the stench of guilt will follow them, even as it has never really left those among them whose reckless ambition led to countless power grabs in the past. Not all the fire hoses and chlorine in the world will wash away the sin of their hubris and cowardice.

Media's thankless job

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

REMEMBER Steve Salcedo? He was the young man in yellow who was lynched on July 27, 1986 by Marcos loyalists who chanced upon him at the Rizal Park. The lynch mob saw red when they saw yellow. The murder was recorded by photojournalists. It was a gruesome scene that plays again, frame after frame, in my mind these days when mobs are loose in the streets to vent their patrons' frustrations—and their own too—on hapless innocents. I can still picture the terror on Steve's face and the salivating mob that beat him to a bloody burger.

I am doing a flashback here because of the recent events that saw irate Estrada loyalists heaping invectives on members of the media, throwing stones at them, physically attacking them, burning their vehicles. Their message: Do your job this way or we could kill you. Who's to say how the media should do their job?

Going back to 1986, the media got it bad when Steve died. How could they have stood there, clicking away, recording someone's death and not have done anything to prevent it? Was it all in the name of objectivity and detachment?

Steve was dead. And if words could kill, those who photographed the killing could very well had been dead too. Why didn't they prevent the Marcos fanatics from killing Steve? Whey didn't they call for help? Whey didn't they...

But they *did.* They clicked their cameras and captured in print the desperate look of the beleaguered man in yellow and the murderous fire in the eyes of his killers. They also captured images of themselves and their fellow photojournalists who "did nothing."

For not yelling "Stop!" news photographers were made to feel like Steve during his last desperate moments. But who was to cast the first stone?

I did a cover story on that issue for the Sunday Inquirer Magazine at that time, featuring some of the country's best photographers and what they thought about the issue ("Photographers' Forum: Between Black & White"). I let known photojournalists say their piece: AP's Bullit Marquez, AFP's Alex Baluyot, Time's Sandro Tucci, JP Pictures' Melvyn Calderon, Luis Liwanag, Noli Yamsuan, Mandy Navasero and Albert Garcia, who had just recovered then from wounds from the NPA ambush of a military convoy where veteran Vietnam war photographer Willy Vicoy died.

I made sure the main photo of that magazine piece was of a flock of photographers training their cameras on a fallen anti-Marcos rallier in Mendiola and one photographer, the intrepid Luis Liwanag, pulling him out of the rubble and the haze of tear gas. My way of shouting, these guys carry heavy instruments and, yes, a heart.

(From that news event, I have kept a black-and-white surreal photo of myself crouching, marooned on a Mendiola street island with tear gas swirling all around me, shot by Willy Perez. We keep these things, our humble link to history.)

Now Erap loyalists are viciously attacking the media for not being fully there for them. They accuse media of labeling them. Or they use media's words to hit back and call attention to themselves.

It is the media's job to describe the sight, sounds and smell. If the place stinks of urine, as the place around the Edsa Shrine did during the pro-Estrada rally, the media plainly say so. What's the problem with that? But pro-Estrada candidate and supporter Ricardo Puno, former top gun of ABS-CBN, gleefully wallows in this, forgets the expensive suits he used to wear, and goes into the "downtrodden" mode. *Mababaho daw tayo*, etc.

These candidates are riding on the smell, sound and images of poverty, exploiting these to the hilt. Vintage Erap. And yet, examine their personal lives. Examine Estrada's profligate life.

So while the incited mob was pushing toward Malacañang, a TV station called Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile in his posh home in Dasmariñas Village. "I'm in my pajamas," said the giggling Enrile who was one of those who fired up the pro-Estrada loyalists the night before.

Come on. They keep hitting at the so-called Makati rich to incite the poor, they keep hitting at the media which report what they see. They want to create a divide. The greatest sin against the poor is using the poor. And this is what these politicians who are anything but poor have done. Shame on you.

If you can't get at your target, *sige*, hit the media. Now the TV networks and newspapers have to brace themselves for attacks. One of these pro-Estrada guys said something about war correspondents getting hit. Excuse me, war correspondents are never targets. They get killed yes, like Willy Vicoy or the Australian journalist during a coup attempt in Thailand, while doing their job.

Journalism is a thankless job. Sure, it has its perks, but one has to internalize that fact that it is simply public service and not a ticket to a privileged life and great parties. (Most print journalists I know are contemplatives who would rather quietly sip beer with their kind or read a great book during their free time.)

One should go about not expecting thanks, praise, recognition and awards. (The severity of the newsroom at 7 p.m. trains you for this.) But if they do, consider them a bonus. Genuinely give thanks, wear a smile on your soul for 45 seconds, then forget about it and go, gruffly go. Don't let these things wash over your soul. Smile about other things: the damning quote you extracted from a tight-lipped source, your vegetable garden, blue candles in a hidden chapel, remembering the scent of your mother.

Maybe it's good that we get attacked once in a while. That we get stones instead of thanks. That we fear for our lives and experience vulnerability. Then detachment becomes easy and we don't take ourselves seriously (those who do might go into politics). Then one day, we can drop everything to head for parts unknown, write a novel, work among the hill tribes or pursue the original dream while remaining a journalist at heart forever.

The long wait

FOR 13 long years I waited for the moment. I was at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport with my mother and my sister, waiting for my father to arrive from the Middle East. I felt like I was 7 years old again, and my father was leaving for Saudi Arabia to work for the first time. I didn't know exactly what that meant, but being young, I thought it was all about chocolates, toys, imported shoes and lots of US dollars. But it also meant not having a father during those important years of my life.

While most kids in school bragged about their fathers who were doctors, lawyers or engineers, I would stammer and reply whenever I was asked, "My father is...a...an overseas contract worker." A sense of inferiority went with that confession, and it was not because my father was an OCW but the fact that he was never around during the years that I was growing up.

YOUNGBLOOD

Christopher George Cadhit

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

When he was abroad, my father called every week. He would come home every three years and stay for three months, and go back to Saudi Arabia.

In later years, he went home yearly, timing his visits with special family occasions. For instance, he was home when my sister graduated from elementary school and I from high school, and again when I graduated from college and my sister from high school. He also came home when my sister celebrated her debut. Of course, every visit depended on whether he got a big bonus from his foreign employers.

If I hug Papa on his birthday and tell him "I love you," he'd probably stiffen and feel embarrassed. I can't blame him. He has never told us how much he loves us, although I have always wanted to hear him say that. I guess he is simply the kind who can't express his feelings openly. He simply shows his love by giving my sister money or buying me new pairs of shoes and the best leather jackets. You can't believe how many leather jackets I have accumulated and how many shoes I have collected since he started working abroad. My shoe collection can't match Imelda Marcos', but I sure have lots of them.

One time he came home in February. I wanted my parents' Valentine's Day together to be special, but I didn't have money since I was just a college student then. All I could afford were a red cartolina paper and a few sign pens.

While they were sleeping on the eve of Valentine's, I was in my room cutting out small hearts. I wrote all the things I wanted to tell them like, "I love you Mama and Papa" and "I am blessed to have you as my parents." I pasted the small hearts with these messages all over the house—on the ceiling, on the walls, everywhere they might look.

When they saw what I did the following day, all they could do was smile. I knew they were touched, but we never talked about it.

Not having a father was tough. There were things I could ask my mother or aunt about, but there were some things only a father would have understood. Sometimes when I answered his long-distance calls, I wanted very badly to tell him about my problems in school and our *berkada.* I wanted to ask his advice but then I'd think it's unfair to add to his worries. So I would tell him everything was okay.

I had friends who didn't have fathers, too, either because they were working abroad or separated from their wives. On Friday nights, we'd go to the movies and have fun. They smoked and drank, and I would join them sometimes. But I was always bothered by the thought that my father didn't deserve such acts of rebellion. He wasn't having a grand time abroad; he was working thousands of miles away from home to give me a good future.

With the money he earned, we were able to build a house that was probably one of the best in the neighborhood. We bought a car, we had the latest wristwatches and we walked around in imported rubber shoes. We had a good education. We got so many things and continued to buy some more.

But as I grew older, I knew my father was growing older too. I knew he wanted to come home and stay with us. But he set the idea aside, convinced that as the head of the family it was his responsibility to provide us everything possible even if it meant being away from us.

Then I made a pact with God: If He would let my father come home permanently to enjoy his remaining years with us, I would be willing to make any sacrifice.

After one whole year of praying, I got a call from Papa. He never said anything definite, but I knew God had answered my prayer. I told Mama that same night, "Papa is coming home." She couldn't believe it.

But four days later Papa called to tell her he was retiring from his job.

Mama cried that night. She said we still had a lot of obligations to settle. Papa would get some retirement benefits, but that wouldn't last long.

But I knew God had heard my prayer. After more than 13 years, Papa was coming home for keeps.

As soon as Papa arrived, the arguments between my parents about the state of their finances began. And they seemed to be arguing more as the days passed.

I would retire to my room, thinking it was my fault. I suspected that the many years that they were apart had somehow made it difficult for them to adjust to living together. But even if they argued almost every day, everything would be okay before they went to sleep. Papa wanted to win back Mama's favor whatever the cost even if it meant swallowing his pride.

Months after my father's return, they decided to buy a taxi for my father to drive. I knew that the idea hurt him. He was a supervisor in a shipping line when he retired. He was used to working in front of the computer the whole day inside an air-conditioned room and giving instructions to others. He drove his own car, and he had never been a taxi driver.

When he started driving his taxi, he'd come home late every night looking tired and defeated. I never heard him complain.

One time as he was putting down the day's earnings on our dining table, I started to see him in a different light. Who is this man in front of me? I asked myself. Who is this person who frowns the same way I do and is as stubborn as I am? Where has he been all these years while I was growing up?

After all those years of imagining him holding hands with my mother as they walked in the mall, or having intellectual discussions with me, here he is looking old with his thin hair. After all those years when I didn't want to wash my leather jackets lest the imprints of his hands would vanish, here he is transformed into a new man whose pride has been taken away from him. He stoops a little now, but I still see strength in his eyes. This challenge will not defeat him, I know.

I waited all those years so that I could tell him that I don't need the shoes or the jackets. The years of separation made me think that maybe we were different. But every day I discover that we are very much alike in many ways and it makes me proud to be his son. He gave me a good education and allowed me to experience the good things in life. He was willing to sacrifice so that our family could have a wonderful life. We may not have the luxuries we used to enjoy, but the good things we have now are worth enjoying even more. It was worth the long wait.

On his coming birthday, I don't know if a hug would be enough to show my love and gratitude. I don't know if messages on paper hearts pasted all over the house would make his day. Maybe I should shine his shoes or buy him a new shirt or a new pair of slippers. I can prepare his favorite dishes together with my mother, sister and aunt. Or I can write him a letter. I just don't want to pass up this opportunity to make him know how great I feel about his being home with us.

Christopher George Cadhit, 27, works as a research analyst in a private corporation and is taking his MBA at the De La Salle University. He plays the violin and sings at weddings.

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A call for pro-poor economic policies

AT AROUND midnight last Sunday, former Sen. Eva Estrada Kalaw harangued the crowds to near frenzy at the Edsa Shrine and asked them to wait for a few more hours for their planned assault on Malacañang. She was even more inflammatory than senatorial candidates Panfilo Lacson and Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile. The latter was, as usual, ingeniously clever in couching his calls for revolt in seemingly legal terms.

Obviously their trucked-in protesters and mercenaries who are bereft of a just cause, took these promises of "*lulusubin na natin sila*" at face value. For by the early hours of Monday, April 30, the crowd had become unmanageable and showed their frustrations by throwing debris at one another. JV Ejercito then gave them what they wanted by openly giving instructions for the "Pasay, Makati and Muntinlupa" contingents to march and proceed to the Ninoy Aquino monument at the Ayala-Paseo de Roxas corner in Makati.

"*Guluhin natin doon ang mga mayayaman, kagaya ng mga* Zobel-Ayala *na hindi naman mga Pilipino, at kung may mga tisoy kayong makasalubong, pitikin ninyo ang kanilang mga ilong.*" These more or less were the instructions given to the mob by this benighted son of Erap.

Alas! Rank demagoguery has been embraced by these traditional politicians, including Butz Aquino, Tessie Oreta, Freddie Webb, Didagen Dilangalen and, of course, Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Gringo Honasan and even Manila City Mayor Lito Atienza.

Yes, like Msgr. Soc Villegas and Jaime Cardinal Sin, the Philippines can only weep at this tragic desecration of the shrine and callous mockery of the Edsa heritage of our people.

And as for President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, she just has to ignore the crude insults coming from the mob around the Edsa Shrine. More important, she has to look upon these events, more as a wake-up call instead of as motivation for political revenge.

The wake-up call is for a fundamental and systems-wide review toward a more recognizable and genuinely pro-poor economic development and distributive policies. She has to go beyond the usual publicity and palliative tokenisms and conventional trickle-down economics that have been resorted to during the past administrations, which have invariably produced more of the same unwitting beggaring of the already poor. And the business community especially the rich, must read and reread the last 15 verses of Matthew 25, over and over again.

Otherwise the intensity of suffering for all of us, which have been predicted repeatedly by the apocalyptic Marian prophecies since 1917, and which faithfully restate the same Gospel prophecies particularly in Revelations and Matthew 24 will make the present moral, economic and physical calamities look like child's play.—**EDUARDO B. OLAGUER, Aurora Milestone Bldg., 1045 Aurora Blvd., Quezon City**

What injustice was done to Erap?

SCENES from the rallies of the pro-Estrada camp confuse and hurt me. Indeed, at this point while I'm writing, they're packing it in at the Edsa Shrine. For what cause? For what ideals? What injustice was done to former President Estrada that is now pushing them to do this? What kind of cruel treatment violated his human rights?

I thought we have to follow the Constitution to the letter. So why is a lady senator crying foul when the police and the justice system merely implemented the law?

When I see people rallying in front of the Edsa Shrine, I can't help but feel bad for two reasons. First, are we really a people easily fooled by their leaders? Secondly, they are desecrating holy ground. The Edsa Shrine is a place of prayer, peace and meditation. It is a place consecrated to remind people how God blessed us especially as a people and rewarded our struggle for genuine democracy.

The place where People Power I gathered strength, where the people fought the dictatorship in a non-violent, bloodless way, the site of the Edsa Shrine is being used to defeat the very ends of People Power I and II. Some people now want to save a former president who is accused of grave crimes committed against us, the very people he should have protected. How can a people so blessed come to this. Why?

We pray that our country will finally learn the hard lessons of our history. Until that time, we are still a people unworthy of the sacrifice of Ninoy and the people who perspired and sacrificed to bring People Power to successful conclusions.

Huwag naman natin itong sayangin, mga kapatid.—**MICHAEL S. YANGA, 164 T. Sandico St., Poblacion, Bocaue, Bulacan 3018**

The gov't's case against Amvel

KINDLY allow me to respond to the paid full-page advertisement of Amvel Land Development Corp. ("Amvel") last April 19, 2001. I will be very brief.

Amvel claimed that the properties were "forcibly acquired by the government," meaning, they were expropriated. This is a lie. The truth is that the properties were sold to the government by negotiated sale. There was no expropriation. The fact that the respondent government officials did not expropriate the properties and offered P4,950 per square meter only as mandated by Administrative Order No. 50 is one of the basis for the charges.

Amvel also claimed that the properties are "zoned and classified as commercial." Again, this is a lie. At the time of the sale of these parcels of land in 1999, they were classified as "residential" as shown in Amvel's tax declarations. Some of these lands were also agricultural or salt-making beds at the time Amvel bought them or entered into joint-venture agreements in 1996 or 1997. As a matter of fact, Amvel, represented by its chair, Mariano "Brother Mike" Velarde, even agreed to eject the tenants and/or pay disturbance compensation to them. Moreover, at the time Amvel bought these properties or entered into joint-venture agreements, it already knew that the properties would be traversed by the C-5 Link.

Amvel claimed that the "average zonal valuation of commercial properties in the area ranged from P25,000 to P30,000 per sq. m." This is misleading. While the zonal valuation for commercial properties along Sucat Road was P25,000 per sq. m. in 1999, the zonal valuation of the subject properties was P4,500 per sq. m. only. The properties which Amvel sold to the government were not commercial properties on Sucat Road.

Amvel claimed that the "original appraisal done by the MMDA and the City Assessor's Office of Parañaque was at P20,000 to P25,000 per sq. m." This is precisely the reason why the members of the Parañaque City Appraisal Committee were likewise charged. The bloated appraisal of the properties that will be affected by the C-5 Link was one of the reasons the right-of-way cost of the project ballooned from a projected cost of P1.356 billion to P4.85 billion! This is also one of the reasons the right-of-way acquisitions for the C-5 Link could not proceed: only P800 million is left out of the P2.65 billion proceeds of the $68.6-million loan obtained by the government to fund the acquisitions!—**ERNESTO B. FRANCISCO JR., E.B. Francisco Jr. Law Office, Suite 805, Greenbelt Mansion, 106 Perea St., Legaspi Village, Makati City**

Old questions and new issues

IN A LETTER to the editor last April 26, Alexander Padilla asked questions that were already answered in Bambi Harper's columns (PDI, 4/17, 21/01) and tried to raise new issues.

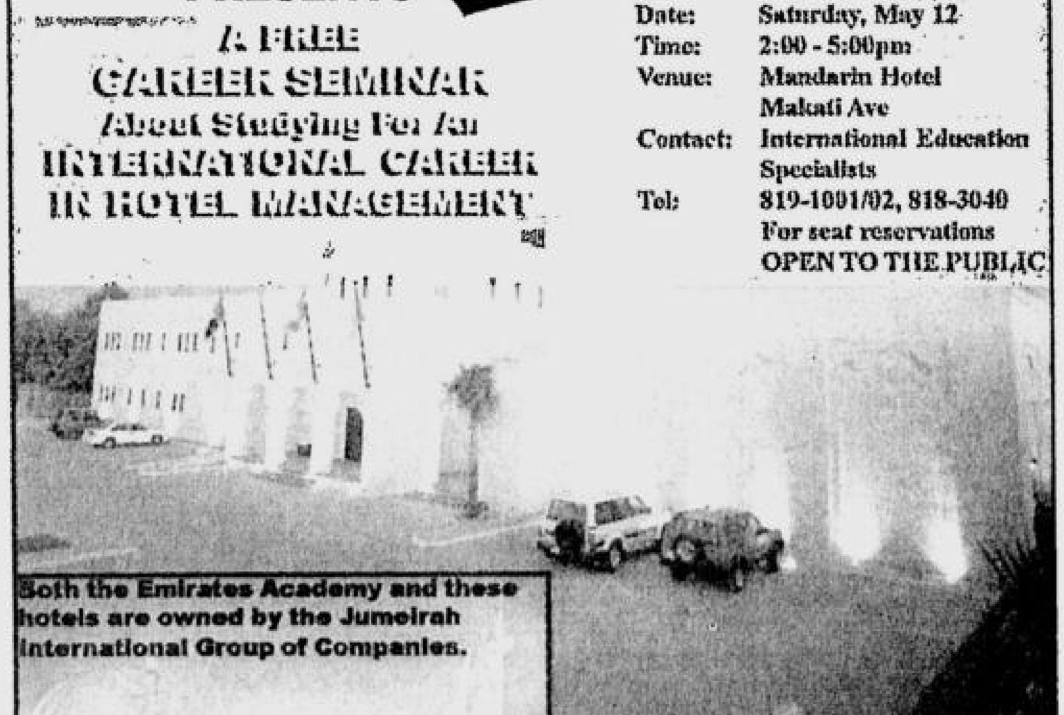
I did not resign as chair of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts. Pursuant to Republic Act 7356, I was elected chair in 1998 by the NCCA board. My term expires in June, but I am eligible for a second three-year term. I plan to run again, but I have indicated that I will withdraw should the President favor someone else. Actually, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo stated in her speech at the Gawad Manlilikha ng Bayan ceremony on March 2, 2001 that she will respect the NCCA's independence and there has been no indication to date that she is backing any candidate for the chairmanship.

Padilla repeats his client's belief that she "has been cleared of all charges." Unfortunately, both of them are mistaken. A Malacañang ruling dated May 17, 1999, states clearly: "Pending resolution of the complaint, respondent (Carmen) Padilla was replaced (as NCCA executive director), thus prompting the PCAGC to recommend dismissal of the complaint…wherefore…the complaint… is hereby dismissed for being moot and academic."

Padilla mentioned two cases in which I am among the defendants. He failed to mention that: (a) the first case is more than 20 years old and is about a foreign loan guarantee approved in March 1981 by the Philguarantee, of which I was then an ex officio director; and (b) the second case was filed by him, i.e., the quo warranto proceeding for Carmen Padilla's return to the NCCA.

I obviously feel I am unfairly accused in both cases, but I leave that to the courts to decide.

The second case, to be sure, is highly pertinent. Carmen Padilla and her supporters have no business pressing Malacañang for her appointment while the issue of her return is *sub judice*.—**JAIME C. LAYA, chair, National Commission for Culture and the Arts, 633 Gen. Luna St., Intramuros, Manila**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Why Erap's trial should be televised

I WOULD like to propose that the trial of former President Estrada be aired live on radio and television. Whether he will be convicted or not, I think that the live coverage of Estrada and company, with all the sordid details, will be a most effective way of teaching our fellow Filipinos who are still unaware of the seriousness of the accusations being made against their hero that, indeed, his right to the due process is being respected.

If Estrada is convicted, I think that his followers would not be as mad as they are now. The live coverage of the trial will enable them to follow with their own eyes and ears what transpires and help them understand the verdict of the court. Then they will not be able to say that Estrada was not given a fair trial.

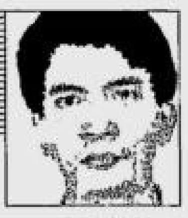
Perhaps the live coverage of the aborted impeachment trial was not able to perform this function effectively since Estrada never appeared before the Senate. Thus, they could not readily connect the person of Estrada to what was going on in the impeachment trial, despite the damning evidence being piled up against him. And of course, the proceedings were cut short by the Envelope.

I hope and pray that the Estrada episode in our lives will come to an end at the earliest time. Our country already has so many wounds that need to heal if we are to move forward. The Estrada episode is already taking away so much of our energy and resources that we need to focus on pressing things such as the ongoing Mindanao peace negotiations, returning to the country the stolen billions of the Marcoses and poverty alleviation. Enough!—**CECILE S. ABIS, 59 San Pedro 8 Compound, Tandang Sora, Quezon City**

Cult politics

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan



WE often think of cults as bands of religious fanatics wearing amulets and warning about the end of the world. All those are really just external trappings. What defines a cult is its followers' intense and uncritical devotion to a leader. These need not be religious: cults are formed around movie stars, for example.

Cults are dangerous, its leaders exerting almost complete control over their followers' lives. Cult members think as one and cling to absolutes; "we" are always right and everyone else is always wrong. Cult members believe they are under siege by the outside world. Many cults end violently, their anger turned inwards into mass suicide pacts, or their rage driving them into rampages against the "enemy," much like what we saw last May 1.

I think you're beginning to get the drift of my article. Political loyalists, the sort that we've seen rallying for Marcos or Estrada, are in a sense cultists. We tend to associate these cultists and political loyalists with the poor. Not only that, we point to their fanaticism to reinforce stereotypes about the poor being "ignorant."

It's time we questioned that stereotype. The fact is that many Filipinos, rich and poor, live by cult politics, conditioned to render complete loyalty to political leaders. I realized this from the way we've handled the Erap case. Even when Chavit Singson first came out with his exposés, many Filipinos—cutting across classes—were arguing that Erap was indeed corrupt but that we shouldn't be talking about the scandals so publicly because, after all, he was still our president. It's that same "logic" being invoked today: sure he plundered but he deserves better treatment as a former (or, in the case of really diehard loyalists, an incumbent) president.

Let's face it, no matter where Erap is confined—his Polk Street mansion, Camp Crame, Veterans Memorial Hospital or Sta. Rosa—people would have complained that it was beneath his station. In fact, I even hear people saying that he should not have been arrested at all, again simply because he is or was a leader.

To some extent, such views reflect the bankruptcy of our moral system. Corruption has become so endemic in our society that we are ready to accept it as another fact of life. The Erap loyalists say that other politicians, including presidents, have plundered as well so why pick on Erap? Others point to Marcos, saying he was not just a thief but a butcher but was allowed to die peacefully, as a free man (albeit an exile), in his bed. People don't question the inequity; instead, they use that inequity to justify more injustice.

Erap's cult following, like our entire cult-based political culture, draws from many sources. Erap certainly gained from being an actor. Last Monday GMA-7's "I-witness" featured a woman from one of the urban slums, totally devoted to Erap. She showed off an album of Erap photos and clippings that date back many years, and the "I-witness" crew followed her as she joined the pro-Erap rallies.

Our cult-like devotion to our leaders go way back in history to the pre-colonial period, when tribal chiefs had complete control over people's lives while they themselves were completely immune from prosecution, no matter how serious their crimes were. Spanish feudalism reinforced notions of the privileged leaders commanding complete servility. The idea here, now ensconced in patronage politics, was that these leaders—even if they were robbing you blind—were still providing for you and never mind if it's with the money they stole from you.

There is, too, a long history of religion being used to institutionalize such blind devotions. During this latest political crisis, the Iglesia ni Cristo—technically a religious cult organized around the Manalo family—played a pivotal role in mobilizing for pro-Erap rallies. The INC followers were a disciplined lot and most probably did not join the Mendiola rampage, but it was the INC's initial provision of thousands of its faithful at Edsa that provided the warm bodies, a vital element for the psychological pressure cooker that I described in my last column, to convince loyalists they were in the right. Throw in the chanting, the propaganda from INC radio and TV stations and the seditious speeches of Juan Ponce Enrile, Gregorio Honasan and Miriam Defensor-Santiago and you had all the ingredients to create the corps of Erap kamikaze warriors to march to Mendiola.

The INC does provide us with insights into the other side of the coin to our cult politics. After Rep. Feliciano Belmonte met with INC leaders and convinced them to support the Macapagal administration, the TV and radio coverage changed completely. Instead of Miriam's rantings, radio listeners got Anita Bryant crooning "Paper Roses." Instead of video coverage of the Edsa rallies, viewers got documentaries on computer technologies.

The INC censored itself out of the picture, and I am sure this helped to defuse the tension, but it still relied on its authoritarian structures to do this. That is what is so problematic with cult politics. Cult leaders use their authority to build more authority, eventually vesting themselves with an aura of sacredness and infallibility. Their decisions become non-negotiable. The tragedy is that when cult leaders err, as all humans do, it is their followers who pay the price, sometimes with their own lives.

While I have concentrated on the INC, I should warn that Catholicism also contributes to this cult-like obedience. Mike Velarde's El Shaddai—another source of Erap loyalists—is itself a cult, both a product of the Catholic tendency toward authoritarianism, and, ironically, now a threat to institutional Catholicism.

Politicians know the power of these cults and have exploited them to the hilt. But more importantly, they know that even Filipinos who are not members of cults are captives of cult politics, with its twisted notions of obedience and respect.

We have a historic opportunity to change this, by standing firm on Erap's arrest, detention and trial. The administration still needs to learn to do its public relations work here, and to be more strategic in timing its moves (I think the arrest could have waited till after the elections), but the government must stand by what it has started. That is the only way we can build a society where everyone is equal before the law. That's when we won't need any more Eraps, as movie heroes or as presidents.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.org

Triumph of due process

LAWYER Rene Saguisag said in an interview over ANC that Estrada's prosecution will not make the current public officials any less rapacious in plundering the country's treasury.

Maybe so. But it will improve public officials even less to simply let deposed President Joseph Estrada's alleged crimes go unpunished. The people want not so much Estrada's conviction but his prosecution before a court of law because that in itself will be a triumph of due process and the rule of law. No matter the cynicism of Saguisag and others like him, it is something to be proud of and build upon even if it does not mean that the current public officials will become better. It just means that the fight for a better government has begun.

But it does make one wonder why Saguisag claims that his defense of the former president is not so much for Estrada's sake as for the defense of due process and the rule of law.—**SHALIMAR VITAN, Teachers' Village West, Diliman, Quezon City**

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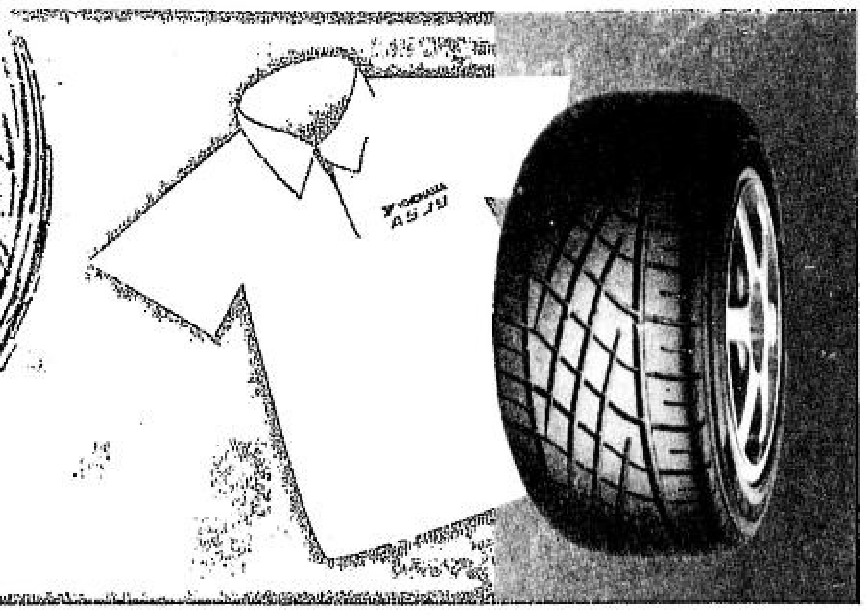

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The WORLD

China, Russia: US missile plan threat to peace

HONG KONG—China and Russia yesterday branded US plans to push ahead with a controversial missile defense system a threat to world peace.

South Korea also signaled unease over the US plan by appealing to President George W. Bush to closely consult with allies before deploying the shield, which is designed to defend the US and its allies from missile attacks by "rogue" states such as North Korea and Iraq.

Bush on Tuesday vowed to press ahead with the deployment of the missile shield, arguing that the United States had to move beyond the outdated framework of the 1972 Anti Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty with Russia.

The treaty banned missile defense systems because of fears one of the Cold War superpowers could be tempted into a first strike nuclear attack.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld justified Bush's announcement, in part, by citing China's missile build-up.

China issued no immediate official reaction but the state news agency Xinhua, quoted analysts strongly criticizing the plan.

"Analysts said the US plan to build a missile defense system will not only spark a new arms race and create a proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, but will also threaten world peace and security in the 21st century," Xinhua reported.

The views of analysts quoted in Xinhua often reflect the views of the government.

South Korean President Kim Dae-jung had a 15-minute-conversation with Bush in which he urged the US President to consult closely with allies over the deployment of the shield, South Korean officials said.

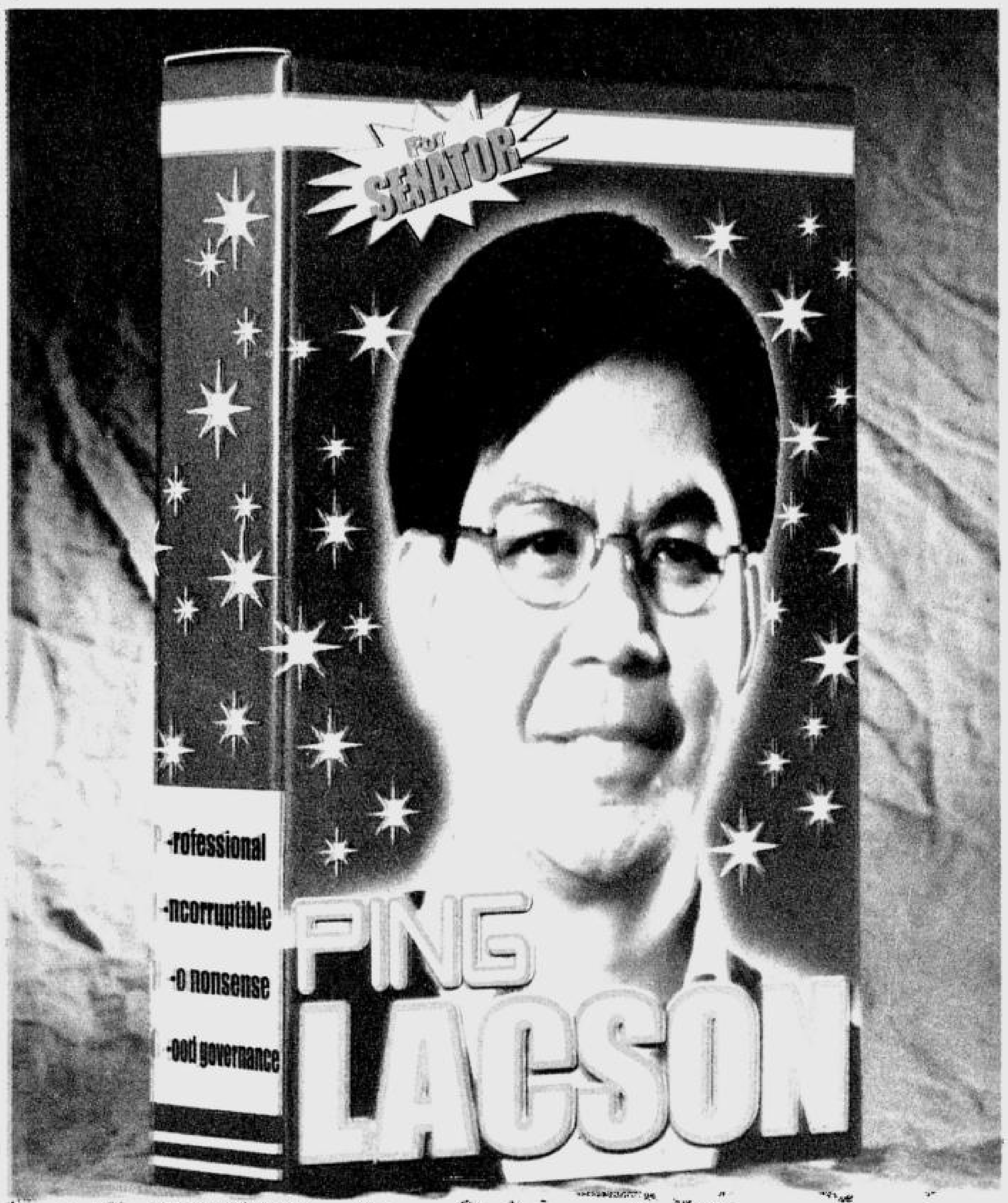
"I appreciate the fact that the US government is holding deep talks with its allies and other countries with their interests at stake in pushing through with a new missile defense shield," Kim was quoted as saying.

"I hope that (the United States) contributes to bolstering peace and stability in the world through this process (of discussions with its allies and other countries)," he said.

AFP

SPEAKING near an antique cannon, President Bush spells out his vision for security in speech on May 1 in Washington.

AP



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Wahid hits parliament for not doing work

JAKARTA—Responding to a stinging rebuke by parliament, beleaguered Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid yesterday chided lawmakers for failing to do their own work.

Addressing the nation in a televised speech, Wahid made no mention of Monday's second censure motion lodged against him by the People's Representative Council (DPR).

The second motion could trigger the impeachment of Indonesia's first democratically elected president, if in the opinion of lawmakers he fails to respond satisfactorily.

But Wahid said legislators had pressing business to attend to.

"The government, in this case the executive, legislative and judicial branches, each have their own tasks," Wahid said in the speech broadcast nationwide by the state Televisi Republik Indonesia.

"There are 160 draft bills in the hands of the DPR waiting to be settled," he said.

The task of monitoring the running of government fell not to the DPR but to the national assembly, the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR), Indonesia's highest legislative body.

"The executive branch's task is to run the government, improving conditions mainly, and highly upholding the norms set by our Constitution," Wahid said.

The president said that democracy could be upheld in Indonesia only if each branch of the government carried out its respective tasks.

But he said it was up to all of them to keep fighting for the rule of law in the crisis-wracked country.

"An honest account from the government to the people is also a must which cannot be avoided, and this is promised by the government," he said.

The near-blind 60-year-old president is 18 months into his term as president, and under the Constitution must account for his rule at the end of the five-year term. *AFP*

Ex-Anwar staffer convicted

KUALA LUMPUR—An opposition leader and former personal secretary to jailed politician Anwar Ibrahim was convicted yesterday of perjury for accusing police of forcing him to implicate his former boss.

Mohamad Azmin Ali, a member of the opposition National Justice Party's supreme council and a state lawmaker, was convicted in the Sessions Court of giving false evidence on March 9, 1999, during Anwar's corruption trial.

Judge Akhtar Tahir sentenced Azmin to 18 months in prison. The maximum penalty for perjury is seven years in prison and a fine.

Azmin said he would appeal and was released on bail of $5,263.

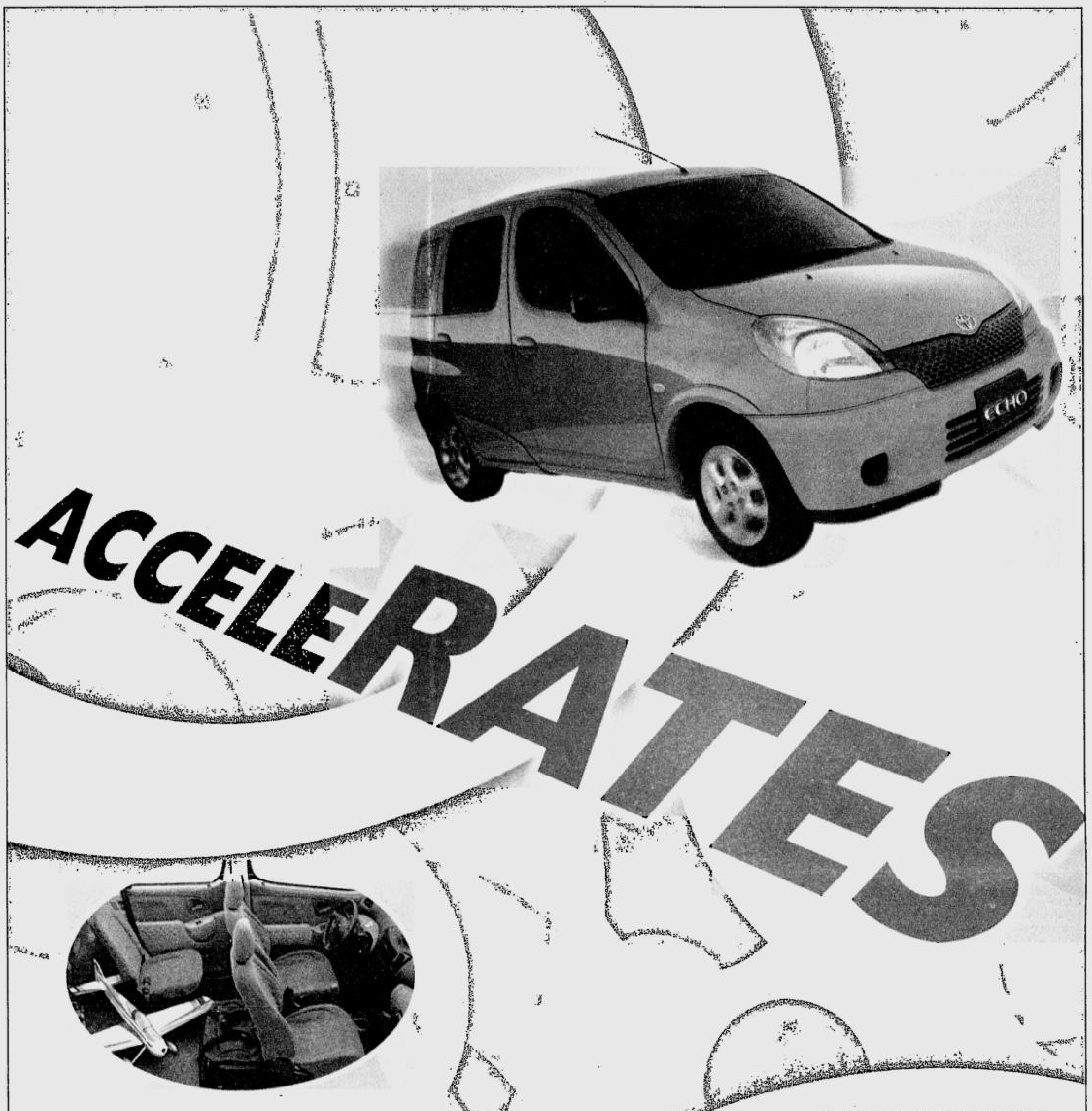
Azmin testified during Anwar's trial that police had used threats and force on him to make a confession which implicated the former deputy prime minister, who is serving prison terms totaling 15 for corruption and sodomy.

Akhtar rejected Azmin's defense, saying in his ruling that, "There was no evidence to show that police had used force on the accused or had the intention to do so, or that he had been forced to implicate Anwar."

He said Azmin's claim about the police could have caused a serious miscarriage of justice at Anwar's trial.

Outside the court, Azmin vowed to prove his innocence in the appeal courts.

"I am innocent," he said. "This is part and parcel of my struggle. I see this as continued persecution by the government against the opposition. But I am not afraid." *AP*



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Per DTI-NCR Permit No.1032, Series of 2001

High-level EU team in Pyongyang to promote peace between 2 Koreas

PYONGYANG—In North Korea's highest-level Western contact in six months, a European Union delegation promoting peace between the Koreas arrived here yesterday to a welcome featuring goose-stepping soldiers and hundreds of women waving flowers.

Prime Minister Goeran Persson of Sweden, which holds the rotating European Union presidency, was to meet with Kim Jong-il, the reclusive leader of the totalitarian North.

The meeting comes at a time when efforts to promote the reconciliation of North and South Korea across the world's most heavily armed border are suffering setbacks. New strains also have developed between the North and the United States, which helps defend the South with 37,000 American soldiers.

In addition, Persson's agenda could include the North's notorious human rights record, its mystery-cloaked missile program, food shortages and its cautious interest in economic reform.

At Sunan airport outside Pyongyang, Persson—the first EU chief or Western European government leader ever to visit the North—was greeted by the country's No. 2 official, Kim Yong-nam.

Kim met Persson as he exited his Swedish air force plane and the two of them walked down a red carpet across the tarmac. They passed an honor guard of Navy, Army and Air Force troops, and a 9-year-old North Korean girl gave Persson a bouquet of flowers.

Hundreds of civilian well-wishers, including women wearing colorful traditional Korean dresses, waved pink flower arrangements. A military band played Beethoven's "Ode to Joy," the EU anthem, followed by the North Korean one.

Persson introduced Kim to other members of his delegation, including EU Security Affairs Chief Javier Solana and EU External Relations Commissioner Chris Patten, who served as the last British governor of Hong Kong.

Persson and Kim then stood on a small platform as the military honor guard goose stepped past them, heels clicking on the tarmac and rifles extended in front of them.

Over and over, the well-wishers shouted in Korean, "Welcome!" and "Friendship!"

From the main terminal building, a big portrait of the late founding president Kim Il-sung, Kim Jong-il's father, looked out over the tarmac. *AP*

NORTH Korean soldiers march after a welcoming ceremony for the European delegation at Pyongyang Airport May 2. REUTERS

UN official pleads for Afghan refugees

FAIZABAD, Afghanistan—The United Nations top refugee official met yesterday with Afghanistan's deposed president to plead for peace to help ease a humanitarian crisis caused by relentless war and the worst drought in living memory.

Ruud Lubbers, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, planned to ask Burhanuddin Rabbani for a temporary truce to help tens of thousands of anguished Afghan refugees.

Lubbers had also hoped to meet anti-Taliban rebel leader Ahmed Shah Massood, the country's former defense chief, and though opposition officials in Faizabad were uncertain, it did not appear likely that meeting would take place. Massood was reportedly with his troops at the front line in neighboring Takhar province.

Lubbers' ceasefire proposal has received a tepid response from Taliban leaders, who rule most of this devastated nation. The powerful governor of the southern Kandahar region, however, promised Tuesday to take the appeal to the Taliban's reclusive leader Mullah Mohammed Omar and to the foreign minister, Wakil Ahmed Muttawakil.

Lubbers plans to meet Muttawaki on Thursday.

The heaviest fighting in recen years has been concentrated in northern Afghanistan, where the anti-Taliban alliance is located. The blistering artillery duels waged by warring groups has forced entire village to flee.

Both sides are reinforcing thei front lines with weapons and men fo more fighting.

Where war hasn't driven peopl from their homes, the drought has, say international aid workers. The numbe of displaced people living in opposition-held areas is not known, but it i estimated to be more than 100,000.

In schools and abandoned buildings in Faizabad—the capital of opposition-held northern Badakhshan province—refugees live in wretched conditions, jammed into small spaces Many are forced to beg for food, sanitation is poor and health care inadequate.

Last month, opposition leaders sai that as many as 300 people had died o disease The rugged terrain and fighting has made relief efforts to this region a difficult task for internationa aid workers.

The opposition relentlessly complains of inadequate assistance. *AP*

Israeli tanks, 'dozers enter Palestinian area

JERUSALEM—Israeli bulldozers moved into Palestinian-controlled territory early yesterday at the Rafah refugee camp near the border with Egypt killing a teenager and destroying at least 10 buildings, Palestinian officials and an eyewitness said.

Brig. Gen. Abdel Razek el-Majaida, a Palestinian security commander, said Israeli tanks were firing shells and machine guns to cover the operation. Hospital doctors said Mahmoud Aqel, 17, was killed and at least 15 Palestinians were wounded.

Majaida called the Israeli move "dangerous escalation." An eyewitness, agricultural engineer Ahmed Shaer, 39, said the bulldozers leveled farmland and greenhouses, and Palestinians were firing anti-tank rockets at the Israelis.

The Israeli military was checking the report. The spokesperson's office knew of no Israeli incursion, but said armed clashes had been going on there all day.

Israeli forces moved into the same area briefly Tuesday, when a Palestinian policeman was killed in a clash.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres begins talks in Washington yesterday in search of an elusive ceasefire deal to end months of fighting that is taking an ever-increasing toll of Palestinians and Israelis.

Another round of funerals took place Tuesday. Palestinians buried five people from a pair of bomb blasts, including two young children. Israelis buried a Jewish settler. Like his father before him, he was killed in a West Bank ambush.

Peres said that US involvement is imperative to stopping the violence—a message he said he will pass on first to US Secretary of State Colin Powell and then to US President George W. Bush.

Speaking in Jordan, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat also said he hoped to reach a truce with Israel, although he did not mention the terms of a deal. Both sides blame each other for the violence.

"We wish there would (be) an agreement," Arafat said after meeting with King Abdullah II. Jordan and Egypt co-authored a truce plan that is under discussion.

The proposal calls for a month-long truce, which would be followed by a resumption of peace negotiations. However, Israel wants a ceasefire to last two or three months before restarting negotiations.

The most recent spasm of violence, however, further dimmed hopes for a breakthrough. *AP*

Macedonia Slavs riot after funeral of slain soldiers

SKOPJE, Macedonia—Macedonian Slavs hurled stones and set fire to ethnic Albanian cake shops and restaurants on Tuesday in rioting triggered by the funerals of soldiers killed in a rebel ambush.

The four-hour melee in Bitola, the country's third largest city, came as President Boris Trajkovski flew to Washington for meetings with US President George W. Bush and Secretary of State Colin Powell to seek US support for his fight to contain ethnic Albanian rebels.

The unrest is likely to strengthen his case that the militants pose a threat to stability in the Balkans and must be quashed.

Albanians comprise at least one-fourth of Macedonia's 2 million people. They claim they are treated as second-class citizens by the majority Slavs.

The riots in Bitola, about 170 km southwest of the capital, Skopje, broke out hours after the funerals of soldiers slain Saturday by ethnic Albanian extremists near the border with Kosovo.

The militants killed eight soldiers and wounded another six security force members in the attack, making it the deadliest incident since clashes between government forces and ethnic Albanian insurgents began in February.

Several hundred young men outraged by the deaths turned on some 40 Albanian-owned stores and businesses in Bitola's business district, throwing rocks, smashing goods and setting fire to the rubble. Bitola is about 15 percent ethnic Albanian.

A café owner shot one rioter in the abdomen, and three other rioters suffered cuts from flying glass. Police detained the shooter and two other people who were inside the café The wounded rioter was reported recovering after surgery Tuesday.

Police claimed that a "timely police action prevented the incident from turning more serious." They said an investigation was under way and that legal action would be taken against the perpetrators *AP*

The Catholic Mass Media Awards
in partnership with
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Couples for Christ
MEGAWORLD CORPORATION
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the 1st cmma
MEDIA FAIR
Theme: Kristo@Media: Ka-Pamilya ng Bayan
May 3 to 5, 2001, Megatrade Hall 3, SM Megamall

"*The CMMA becomes true to its commitment not only as an award-giving body, but a venue to advocate and promote quality productions which every Filipino audience deserves. Mass media should be used in 'preserving our cultural values as Filipinos in safeguarding our moral fiber as a nation steadfastly.'*

H.E. Jaime Cardinal L. Sin, D.D.
Archbishop of Manila

We salute CMMA's commitment to play an active role in society. This keeps faith with the legacy of People Power II that individuals, acting on their conscience and belief on what is right for the country, can make a difference in the course the nation takes. This same belief is what makes civic organizations like the CMMA prosper and we look forward to continued exercise of its mission.

Hon. Sec. Raul S Roco
Department of Education, Culture and Sports

Through this 1st CMMA Media Fair, we hope to find ways of using media's power to shape a better world where our youth can fulfill their God-given destiny. We are confident of positive outcomes with the help of concerned individuals and institutions.

Col Antonio Cabangon-Chua, CPA, Ph.D.
Chairman, Catholic Mass Media Awards"

Schedule of Activities

May 3 (Thursday)
10:30 a.m Holy Mass
11:30 Ribbon-Cutting and Blessing
1:30 Video Presentation of CMMA 2000
3:00 New Trends in Print Media
Ms. Vinia Datinguinoo(PCIJ)
4:00 Film Showing
5:00 Viva Records
6:00 Film Showing

May-4 (Friday)
12:15 nn Holy Mass in Radyo Veritas
Rev. Fr. Joselito I. Jopson
1:30 pm Film Showing
2:30 Viva Records
3:30 Usapang Media (Talk Show)
Modeartor: Mr. Mandy Ochoa
Panelists: Ms. Laurice Guillen
Mr. Ansel Beluso
Mr. Mari Kaimo
5:00 Film Showing

May 5 (Saturday)
10.00 FilmShowing
11:00 am Short Lecture and Film Showing
Mr. Raymond Red
1:30 pm Holy Mass and Launching of CMMA 2001
His Excellency Most Rev. Cnsostomo Yalung
3:00 Closing of CMMA Media Fair
Viva Records, Star Records, PY Nakar & Jesuit Music Ministry

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Former Klansman convicted for 1963 bombing of church

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama—A former Ku Klux Klansman was convicted of murder for the 1963 church bombing that killed four black girls, the deadliest attack during the civil rights movement.

Thomas Blanton Jr., 62, was sentenced Tuesday to life in prison by the same jury that found him guilty after just two and a half hours of deliberations. Before he was led out of the courtroom in handcuffs, he was asked if he had any comment.

"I guess the good Lord will settle it on judgment day," he said.

Blanton is the second former member of the white supremacy group to be convicted of planting the bomb that went off at the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church on Sept. 15, 1963, a Sunday morning.

The bomb ripped through an exterior wall of the brick church. The bodies of Denise McNair, 11, and Addie Mae Collins, Cynthia Wesley and Carole Robertson, all 14, were found in the downstairs lounge.

Denise's parents, Chris and Maxine McNair, were in the front row of the mostly empty courtroom when the verdict was read. They did not comment as they left the courthouse.

The Rev. Abraham Woods, a black minister instrumental in getting the FBI to reopen the case in 1993, said he was delighted with the verdict.

"It makes a statement on how far we've come, said Woods, the local president of the Souther Christian Leadership Conference.

"We're mindful that this verdict will not brin back the lives of the four little girls," added Kwei Mfume, head of the National Association for th Advancement of Colored People, in a statemen "(But) justice has finally been served."

Defense attorney John Robbins said the swi verdict showed the jury was caught up in the emotion surrounding the notorious case He said h would seek a new trial, arguing the case should hav been moved out of Birmingham and Blanton's rigl to a speedy trial had been violated.

He also said the lack of white men on the jury-eight white women, three black women and or black man returned the verdict—"absolutely hu Blanton."

The case is the latest from the turbulent civ rights era to be revived by prosecutors. Byron De L Beckwith was convicted in 1994 of assassinatin civil rights leader Medgar Evers in 1963 and form Klan imperial wizard Sam Bowers was convicte three years ago of the 1966 firebomb-killing of leader of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. *AP*

Cells from cadavers give hope of cure for brain disorders

PARIS—One of the biggest obstacles to brain cell transplants, one of the most exciting yet contested areas of medical research, may have been overcome, American scientists hope.

A range of fatal, neurodegenerative disorders, such as Alzheimer's, Huntington's and Parkinson's, is being targeted in experimental research in which embryonic stem cells are injected into the brain to replenish ravaged tissue.

These are cells taken from fetuses at the earliest stages of development that have the remarkable ability to grow into virtually any of the body's tissues.

But despite promising results, the research has been overshadowed by ethical objections about the source of the cells, as well as legal bars to such work in some countries.

Writing in Thursday's issue of Nature, a team led by Fred Gage at the Salk Institute in La Jolla, California, report a technique for growing immature brain cells from tissue taken from cadavers.

Tissue was taken from a baby boy who had died at 11 weeks and from a 27-year-old man, and then placed in a succession of solutions that caused them to proliferate and yield these so-called progenitor cells.

The cells from the baby were the most successful. The numbers doubled with each successive generation until the rate of growth declined after 70 doublings.

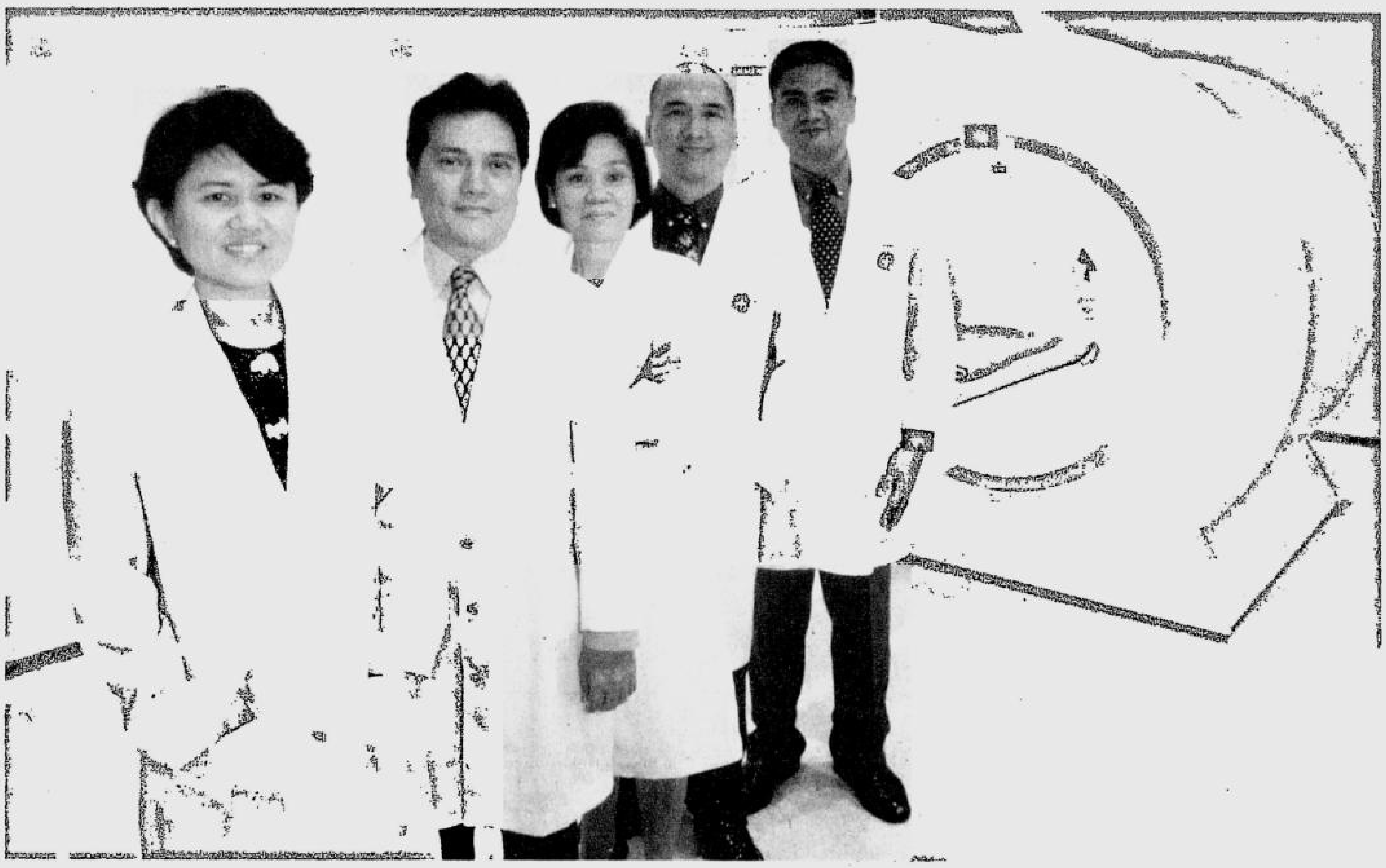
Those from the adult men saw more than 30 population doublings before the growth rate fell away.

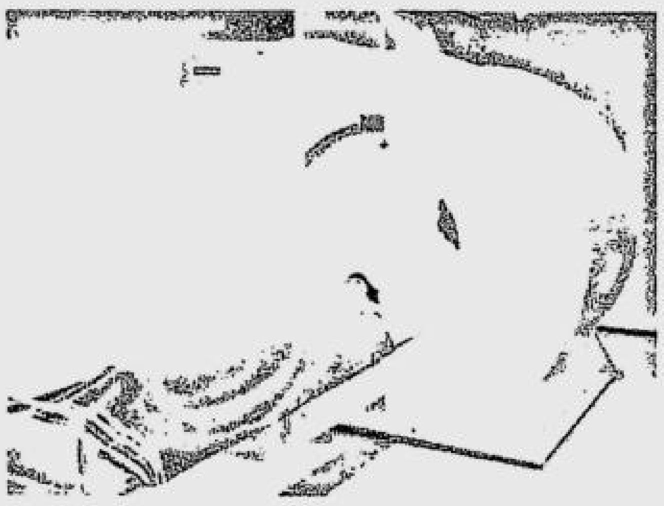
The technique has been successfully used on other samples taken from people from different age groups. Progenitor cells have even been grown from tissue harvested some 20 hours after death.

"Although the relative therapeutic merits of adult and fetal progenitor cells still need to be assessed, our results may extend the application of these progenitor cells in the treatment of neurodegenerative diseases," the authors say.

Although the technique bypasses objections about embryonic tissues, it still raises "complex ethical and societal issues" that must be carefully addressed, they stress. *AFP*

When technological advancement and medical expertise are in harmony with service of greater worth, the patient's welfare takes center stage.





The Medical City proudly inaugurates its Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Unit today. The superiority of the MRI technology in the early detection and diagnosis of diseases provides the hospital with another opportunity to provide greater service to our patients. The new Magnetom Symphony MRI System of Siemens provides state-of-the-art technology that truly complements the expertise of our medical staff. Very importantly, moreover, the technology- as well as our facility and staff- redefine what patient's comfort should be.

The harmony of technological superiority and medical expertise...

The new Magnetom Symphony Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) System with 1.5 Tesla field strength is exactly what our experts need to capture images with clarity and detail. For early cancer detection. To detect an early onset of a stroke. To get superior images of the brain, spine, and the musculo-skeletal system.

and the importance we put on our patients' welfare and comfort

The new Siemens MRI technology reduces the duration of an examination procedure and, thus, minimizes the discomfort associated with being immobilized. Lighting and ventilation are also adequate. Morever, the MRI Unit, itself, is cozy and patient-friendly. The staff are warm and are aware of the anxieties that a patient experiences when undergoing an MRI procedure.

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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

ROUNDUP

17 firearms seized

BAGUIO CITY—Police here confiscated 17 firearms, mostly .38 cal. revolvers, since the Commission on Elections imposed a gun ban on Jan. 2. The gun owners, mostly civilians, were arrested and detained at the city jail. SPO1 Virgilio Hidalgo, Baguio police community relations officer, said they have yet to record an election-related violent incident in Baguio. *Cesar Marquez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Better fish culture

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Fish sufficiency in Cagayan Valley has increased due to improved fish culture and cultivation techniques, the regional Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) said. Jovita Ayson, regional BFAR director, said the fish sufficiency level in the region, once pegged at 21 percent, has increased to 35 percent due to programs like marine fish cage culture, massive production of *tilapia* and fishpond and cage technology. She said the BFAR is distributing 2 million *tilapia* fingerlings to farmers and fishermen in Cagayan, Isabela, Quirino and Nueva Vizcaya. *Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

"Preno" launched

LUCENA CITY—The Task Force Calabarzon, the special police group in Southern Tagalog that deals with hijacking and other crimes in the Calabarzon corridor, launched Preno last Monday. Preno which stands for "Practice Road Ethics and No Overspeeding" aims to stop the rising number of accidents along major roads in the region. Senior Supt. Manny Carta, head of Task Force Calabarzon, said he will arrest erring drivers if they show signs of driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Supt. Alberto Mercado, acting Quezon police provincial director, said the program aims to set up "control points" in different strategic spots along the Maharlika Highway in Quezon province, to serve as a takeoff area for the campaign. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

GMO tests opposed

SAN PABLO CITY—The militant Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) has vowed to stage protest actions against the planned field testing of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in six provinces and 32 villages in the country. KMP chair Rafael Mariano also assailed the Macapagal administration for its inaction on the farmers' demand to ban the testing of GMOs. He said nothing has materialized in the president's promise to act on the farmers' demand for their basic right to health and freedom from exploitation. *Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Campaigner missing

SINILOAN, Laguna—The coordinator of the party-list Bayan Muna in Barangay Halayhayin here has been missing since an alleged encounter in mid-April between Army soldiers and alleged members of the New People's Army (NPA) in Barangay Sulib, Pakil. Dennis Menidilla, Bayan Muna party-list coordinator, went out at 2 p.m., April 18 (the time when the alleged encounter occurred) to deliver rice to his father in Barangay Saray in Pakil. The victim passed by Barangay Butadero on his way to Pakil with his ID and posters of Bayan Muna to distribute to his father's co-workers. Menidilla has since failed to return home, according to his wife Rexy. Witnesses, however, told Rexy that they saw her husband in Pakil being interrogated by his captors believed to be AFP elements. *Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Coordinator killed

CALAPAN CITY—A coordinator of the Bayan Muna party-list was stabbed dead by his own uncle in his home in Barangay Masipit here last April 15. Nancy Rada, secretary general of Karapatan-Mindoro Oriental, identified the victim as Ramon "Bong" Ternida Jr., coordinator of Bayan Muna in Oriental Mindoro. Ternida's attacker was identified as a certain Boyet Jocson, a suspected drug user. She said Ternida was stabbed in the back and died in a hospital here. Rada said Ternida was also the provincial chair of Anakbayan-Mindoro Oriental. Rada said they have recorded instances in the last few weeks that suspected and known drug users were being used by the police in their surveillance against militant groups. *Joel Jabal, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila HI 35° Lo 24°	**Baguio** HI 26° Lo 16°	**Tuguegarao** HI 36° Lo 23°	**Laoag** HI 34° Lo 23°
Clark Zone HI 35° Lo 24°	**Tagaytay** HI 34° Lo 23°	**Legazpi** HI 34° Lo 26°	**Calapan** HI 34° Lo 24°
Bacolod HI 34° Lo 25°	**Roxas** HI 33° Lo 28°	**Cebu** HI 33° Lo 25°	**Tacloban** HI 33° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos HI 34° Lo 25°	**Zamboanga** HI 33° Lo 24°	**Cagayan de Oro** HI 33° Lo 23°	**Davao** HI 33° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research

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Bet's wife, 4 others killed in ambush in Calbayog City

By VICENTE LABRO
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—Five persons were killed and nine others were wounded in an ambush early yesterday morning in Calbayog City in Samar province, which was tagged by the Commission on Elections as an election hot spot in Eastern Visayas.

Senior Supt. Nardito Yoro, regional police director, said reports reaching the Philippine National Police regional office said that Rose Tamidles, wife of Calbayog's reelectionist Councilor Nestor Tamidles, was among those killed in the ambush.

Councilor Tamidles himself was wounded in the attack and is said to be in very critical condition in an undisclosed hospital.

Yoro said the group was riding in a van on their way to Calbayog City when the van was fired upon by 15 unidentified armed men. It was not immediately known from where the group of Tamidles was coming.

The ambush occurred around 12:20 a.m. yesterday along the national highway between Barangays Marcatubig and Bantian, Tinambacan District in Calbayog City.

Police have yet to determine whether or not the ambush was politically motivated.

Rose Tamidles was pronounced dead on arrival at the St. Camillus Hospital in Calbayog City. The other fatalities were identified as Rosalinda Rosalado, Rosario Masdo, Gerlito Tolob and Gilbert Hingi.

The wounded were Rolly Combo, Eligio Leones, Melecio Fernandez, Milagros Limbagog, Rogelio Septimo, Jade Francisco, Roberto de Año, and Richard Tamidles, the driver of the van.

They were brought to the St. Camillus Hospital and the Calbayog Sanitarium Hospital for treatment.

Responding policemen said they recovered from the crime scene 59 spent shells of M-16 Armalite rifles, one long magazine loaded with three live bullets of an Armalite rifle, and one live bullet of a caliber .45 pistol.

Yoro said he received information that Councilor Tamidles is a trusted leader of three-term Rep. Rodolfo Tuazon (Lakas-NUCD, Samar, 1st District) whose wife, Paz, is seeking the congressional post in their district.

Yesterday's ambush-slaying was the third killing in Calbayog City since March.

On March 26, Robert Gulla, 26, was gunned down while inside a passenger tricycle that was then crossing the Rosales Bridge, located just several meters away from the police station in downtown Calbayog City.

Four unidentified men armed with 9mm pistols waylaid Gulla, who was reportedly a former bodyguard of Tuazon. The suspects, who fled after the incident, have remained unidentified.

Police, however, said the killing of Gulla was not election-related.

On April 19, a Liberal Party leader in Calbayog City and his companion were ambushed in Barangay Looc, Happy Valley, while they were on their way home on board a motorcycle from a political rally in a nearby village.

Killed was Marcelo Niangga, 32, married, while his companion identified as Gerry Calderon was hit in the face. A bullet passed through his cheeks. Calderon was later moved to the Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center here in Tacloban.

The police, however, said the killing was not election-related.

Party-list head shot dead in Cebu party HQ

By TONTON ANTOGOP
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—A leader of a party-list group was shot dead Saturday afternoon inside the headquarters of Alayon, a regional party, in Sitio Bahada, Barangay Poblacion, San Remegio town, 109 kilometers north of this city.

The victim was identified as Chad Alfaro, 38, of Malate, Manila, organizer of party-list group Asa at Samahan ng Karaniwang Pilipino (Asakapil).

He was shot twice in the head allegedly by Tony Pestolante, who immediately escaped on board a motorcycle. He remains at large.

Pestolante was allegedly a cousin of lawyer Alfonso Pestolante, who is running for municipal councilor under the Alayon ticket.

He also acted as campaign spokesperson of reelectionist San Remegio Mayor Conrado Loon, an Alayon member.

Insp. Mariano de la Pena, San Remegio police chief, said personal conflict between Pestolante and Alfaro was the motive of the killing and not politics.

He said Pestolante had carried a grudge against Alfaro who would insult the suspect, especially on how Pestolante conducted his campaign for Loon.

De la Peña said there was a time when Pestolante felt bad after Alfaro laughed at his manner of endorsing Loon during a campaign sortie.

But residents near the headquarters said Alfaro was killed because the victim refused to release money to Pestolante that would be used for their campaign sortie that Saturday night.

Alfaro allegedly explained to Pestolante that he would only release the money when the rest of the representatives of the other candidates were present. A heated argument ensued that later led to the shooting.

But Mayor Loon said the motive of the killing was personal and that Alfaro was not Alayon's bagman.

He said Alfaro was often at the Alayon headquarters because of an earlier arrangement that allowed the victim to go with Alayon candidates during their campaign sorties so Alfaro could promote Akapil. *With reports from Kathy Navarro, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Erap backers down, out, abandoned

DAVAO CITY--Abandoned by their leaders, around 50 pro-Estrada protesters who camped out the past six days at the Rizal Park in Davao City were left without money and fare to return to their villages.

With their heads down, about 10 residents who were ferried last Sunday from Digos City to the Rizal Park by a pro-Estrada leader sat silently at one corner of the park thinking how they will return to their homes

"We were abandoned, we don't have any money. We are waiting for a neighbor who transferred here in Davao to help us in securing fare for us," said Epifanio Gaca, one of those recruited to join the rally.

On Monday night, a mob of around 300 people beat up a man, identified as Raymund Rivera, whom they claimed failed to deliver his promise to bring them to Metro Manila to join pro-Estrada forces there.

Cooler heads from among the pro-Estrada forces saved Rivera from death. He was taken to a nearby police station for safekeeping. Rivera told reporters that he did not renege on his promise but the money promised by a senatorial candidate whom he refused to identify, has not been transmitted to him.

Rivera admitted that he gave the Digos City-based protesters P500 as initial pay but the P5,000 promised by the politician never arrived.

Around 3 p.m. Tuesday, some 5,000 anti-Estrada forces took over the Rizal Park from the pro-Estrada groups who were forced to stay in the sidelines.

The rally ended peacefully.

Officials said 600 pro-Estrada supporters gathered at the Cagayan de Oro port expecting to go to Manila to join the pro-Estrada rally there.

But the report said the people were not able to take the ferry because the pro-Estrada leader who promised them a free ride to Manila did not show up.

The report also said some 1,000 Estrada supporters also gathered at the Rizal Park in front of the City Hall in General Santos City Monday night. But the group dispersed late in the evening.

An undetermined number of people were reportedly assisted by Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen to secure tickets for the Superferry ship at the Polloc Port in Parang, Maguindanao bound for Manila on April 30, according to the Mindanao operations center report.

In Cotabato City, Fr. Eduardo Tanudtanod, OMI, director of the Notre Dame Broadcasting Corp., said what happened was "a strong message that a movement without a just, moral and legitimate cause will never prosper. The primacy of truth and law will always lead us to freedom." *Jowel Canuday, Allan Nawal, Edwin Fernandez, Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

'Lumads' protest Bukidno[illegible] WB project

ANTAPAN, Bukidnon—*Lumads* here are up in arms against a World Bank-administered project for allegedly failing to protect their cultural rights.

The *lumads* vowed to block the project's implementation unless the agencies involved in it, particularly the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), initiate a dialogue with them.

Talaandig *lumad* leader Datu Migketay Victorino Saway claimed that the Conservation of Priority Protected Areas Project (CPPAP), an environmental project in Mt. Kitanglad, failed to give enough attention to their ancestral domain claim, which was a major commitment of the World Bank.

Saway complained that the CPPAP implemented many programs on their ancestral land without getting their consent. He cited in particular the ecotourism projects and the Community-Based Forest Management Agreement (CBFMA) program, which he said, undermined their ancestral domain claim.

"The indigenous peoples' struggle (on) Mt. Kitanglad is (about) culture and environment, but it has been reduced to being a business venture," Saway said.

Saway blamed the local DENR office for implementing the CBFMA and accused it of committing "cultural violations."

He said these violations include destroying tribal unity and the integrity of the leadership of the tribe.

He said the *lumads'* Council of Elders want the DENR to hold a dialogue with them on the alleged violations. *H. Marcos Mordeno, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Wife to run in place of slain bet

By ALEX PAL
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—The Lakas-NUCD-People Power Coalition is fielding the wife of slain Canlaon City vice mayor and mayoral candidate Jose "Ondo" Cardenas to be their standard bearer in the May 14 elections.

Judith Cardenas was chosen by the Lakas-NUCD-PPC to replace her husband during a series of party meetings held in Canlaon City, 160 kilometers north of here, over the weekend.

Sigfredo Cardenas, a doctor, would also be fielded to run for councilor of Lakas-NUCD-PPC to replace his sister Jessica who was also killed in the ambush that led to the deaths of Jose and four of their supporters, according to a report by ABS-CBN here.

Judith and Sigfredo were expected to file their certificates of candidacy on Monday at the Commission on Elections.

But a check with the provincial Comelec office and Canlaon City election supervisor Eddie Aba showed that they had not done so.

Jose and Jessica Cardenas were killed along with their four companions in an ambush by about 12 armed men on April 27 in Sitio Pinamintigan, Barangay Budlasan, Canlaon City, after attending a rally at nearby Sitio Bulacan.

The others killed in the ambush were Hospicio Condes Jr., Canlaon's acting city administrator and PPC campaign manager in the city; Calvin Neri, the driver; and PPC supporters Telesforo Fajardo, Ricardo Oca and Julius Escala.

Wounded were Cardenas' vice mayoral candidate, Jimmy Clerigo; and supporters Nick Malones, Ramil Salazar, Helen Tano, Julius Dellonardo, Jose Lara and Aurelio Cagatin.

The New People's Army had owned the ambush-slaying, saying Jose Cardenas was killed because of his "sins against the people." But the victims' family said they believed the perpetrators were hired killers.

Canlaon City was one of the areas identified by the Comelec as an area of concern, because of sightings of armed men in the area, believed to be members of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army.

The elections are also being hotly contested in this city. Cardenas was running against Julius Amador of the Nationalist People's Coalition.

The Comelec in Negros Oriental had recommended placing Canlaon under Comelec control to prevent bloodshed. But provincial election supervisor Rogelio Benjamin said their central office has yet to act on his recommendation.

Gov's sister sues accusers for libel

By CHITO FUENTES
PDI Visayas Bureau

TAGBILARAN CITY—A sister of Gov. Rene Relampagos and her husband filed a libel case against six lawyers who claimed that both were jobless and could not be the owner of a "seaside mansion" that "would easily cost between P8 million to P10 million."

Charged were lawyers Aster Apalisok-Piollo, Myrna Pagsuberon, Zotico Ochavillo, Victor de la Serna, Alexander Lim and Nerio Zamora.

Ma. Concepcion Relampagos-Caseñas and husband Jose Mari Caseñas filed the libel case before the city prosecutor's office on April 20.

The six lawyers had accused Relampagos of acquiring ill-gotten wealth, including a multimillion-peso mansion in Baclayon town despite having a salary of only P25,000 a month.

In a letter-complaint filed before the Office of the Solicitor General, the lawyers alleged that "nobody in Bohol believes that the spouses Caseñas could afford to construct this huge seaside mansion" because "both are jobless and unemployed."

The letter-complaint, along with a photo of the house, was published as paid advertisement in all three Bohol newspapers.

"We own the house described in the letter. We are not jobless and unemployed," the Caseñas couple declared in their joint affidavit.

After she retired in 1994 from the Philippine Airlines (PAL), Concepcion said she became a partner of the Tagbilaran Able Enterprises which has been PAL's booking and sales agent in Bohol.

Her husband owns Care Autohaus, a firm engaged in the sale of automotive hardware, since 1992.

The couple also said the house only cost about P2.5 million and not P8 to P10 million as claimed by the lawyers.

They said they built the house from their accumulated savings and credits extended by the governor's parents and their suppliers.

All these could have been easily verified, especially by De la Serna, Jose Mari's uncle. The couple added that the house's construction plans could also be inspected.

"But (the) said lawyers, without even trying to contact us, and motivated by malice and with obvious intent of publicly maligning us, published said letter as part of their effort to destroy the good name and reputation that we have established after years of work and labor," the couple declared.

Isabela judge suspended for sex harassment

SANTIAGO CITY—The Supreme Court suspended a judge here for six months for sexually harassing a 39-year-old woman in 1998 and 1999.

The tribunal ordered Judge Demetrio Calimag Jr. of the regional trial court here to pay a fine of P20,000 for "disgraceful and immoral conduct unbecoming of a judge." The decision came more than a year after the woman filed sexual harassment charges against Calimag in August 1999.

The Supreme Court's second division meted out the suspension citing the rules of the Civil Service Commission imposing the maximum penalty of suspension for disgraceful and immoral conduct for the first offense.

The court said Calimag would be dealt with severe punishment should he repeat the offense.

The woman, who accused Calimag of sexually harassing her in 1998 and 1999, said she was happy about the Supreme Court decision because she was vindicated.

"This will serve as a warning to my fellow women who refuse to open their mouths for fear of reprisal. There's no poor or rich in the justice system," she said.

Calimag, who took a two-week leave of absence, has yet to receive a copy of the order.

The woman said Calimag harassed her in July 1998 when she accompanied her neighbor at the justice hall here. She said the judge touched her shoulders and told her that he liked her.

She said when she followed up her annulment case in 1999, the judge harassed her again while inside his chamber. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

ERAP PA RIN!

... thus chanted a huge crowd at the EDSA Shrine.

For 6 nights they were stirred up by politicians intent on their own self-serving agenda. These politicians whipped up the crowd into a frenzy, causing them to attack Malacañang. Six people were killed and scores injured. Damage to property was extensive.

These politicians, belonging to the Puwersa ng Masa, were intent on grabbing power. In so doing, they did much harm.

- They desecrated the holy ground of the EDSA Shrine.
  They showed no respect for God!
- They lied about the constitutionality of Mrs. Arroyo's government.
  They showed no respect for truth.
- They uttered seditious remarks.
  They showed no respect for the Constitution.
- They manipulated the poor for their own self-serving ends.
  They showed no respect for the dignity of people, especially the poor!

For love of God and country, we should reject these politicians!

For love of God and country, we need to bring back our land to the plan of God.

- We need to listen to the voice of morality from our leaders in the Church, and not listen to unscrupulous politicians with their own self-serving agenda.
- We need to honor people who follow the path of peace, including our gallant soldiers and policemen who defended our constitution and our democracy, even to the point of sacrificing their lives.
- We need to work for genuine renewal of government and politics, where officials serve with integrity for the good of the people.
- We need to be mindful of the hopes and aspirations of the poor, recognizing their legitimate grievances and committing our resources to the alleviation of poverty.

GOD LOVES THE PHILIPPINES!

ONWARD TO STABILITY AND PROGRESS.

COUPLES FOR CHRIST

Our Vision: One nation under God that will be a light to the world.

Peso, stocks rise; traders cheer GMA

(From page A1)

The main Philippine Stock Exchange Index rose 57.04 points, or 4.14 percent, to end at 1,435.88—a dramatic reversal of Monday's performance when the market fell to a six-month low amid rumors of a military coup.

Turnover also improved, rising to P765.46 million from P443.38 million.

The restoration of order in the capital and the arrest of opposition leaders accused of the orchestrating the unrest also strengthened the local currency.

The peso closed 50.730 against the dollar at the Philippine Dealing System, up from 51.45 at the previous session.

The peso hit an intraday high of 51.6 to the greenback. Volume fell to $167.5 million from $170.85 million on Monday.

The financial markets were closed on Labor Day when President Macapagal declared a state of rebellion in Metro Manila after government troops beat back an attempt by Estrada loyalists to break into Malacañang.

Guillermo Luz, executive director of the prestigious Makati Business Club, said the President's swift action in quashing the mayhem was "a cathartic moment in our history."

"It's not going to go unnoticed that a line was drawn in the sand and once people cross that line, the government has to hold firmly and pursue law and order," Luz said.

Even so, traders warned that tensions remained high and any further negative political developments could swiftly erode Wednesday's market gains.

Traders said foreign investors were light net sellers on Wednesday, reflecting their anxieties over Tuesday's events.

But the impact was slight, as many offshore players have largely abandoned the Philippine market in recent months.

"A lot of investors, particularly foreigners, are still maintaining a wait-and-see attitude," said April Lee, research head of Citisecurities Inc.

Lee also expressed doubts whether the rally could be sustained, noting that the value turnover was not as big as that seen after Edsa People Power II in January that toppled Estrada and catapulted then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to power.

Enrique Santa Ana, associate sales director of Vickers Ballas Securities, said Wednesday's upturn was not likely to last.

"As we approach the 1,450-point resistance mark (on the main index) people will probably opt to take profits as the (political) situation still remains volatile," Santa Ana said.

But he considered it unlikely that the pro-Estrada camp could mount another serious challenge to the Macapagal administration, with opposition leaders failing to join in Tuesday's march on the Palace.

"The pro-Estrada people realize that their supposed leaders have abandoned them and they are bearing the brunt of the pain," Santa Ana said.

Cautious

Astro del Castillo, A & A Securities research head, was more cautious on the threat posed by the Estrada camp.

"There is the potential for a backlash over the arrests (of the alleged ringleaders). . . There are also questions on whether the local and congressional elections in May will be peaceful and whether there'll be an attempt to stage another people power uprising," Del Castillo said.

Cruz said foreign investors were awaiting the outcome of the forthcoming elections before moving back into the market.

"The Senate make-up is the last stamp of legitimacy for the Arroyo administration," he said, adding if opposition candidates take most of the seats there was a danger the country would be left with "a lameduck administration."

Gonzalo Bongolan, research head of PCCI Securities Brokers Inc, said he expected the stock market to extend its gains over the next few days, adding he was cautiously optimistic that the elections would not be marred by violence.

"Everybody knows now how the government stands in abating violence and in that respect, the uncertainty is removed," said John McGowan, treasurer at the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corp. in the Philippines.

However, McGowan said, the peso isn't likely to sharply appreciate given the uncertainty ahead of the congressional and local elections in May. "Foreign equity investors want to see how the elections pan out before bringing any funds into the Philippines," he said.

No capital flight

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said that there was no capital flight observed in the financial markets following the violent protests of Estrada supporters.

Buenaventura also said the peso corrected from its lows without intervention from the central bank.

"Clearly, we did not see any capital flight nor did we see any speculative play," Buenaventura said in a news briefing at the presidential palace.

He said he expected the peso to range between 50.00-50.50 to the dollar in the near term.

"We should improve and go back to normal tracking together with other Asian currencies," Buenaventura told reporters. ***Reports from Doris S. Dumlao, AP, Reuters and AFP***

Gloria: I feel great… but I got scared

(From page A1)

prised over the nooks and corners and secret passages that I pass through," said the daughter of President Diosdado Macapagal.

The President admitted that suppressing a rebellion was something that her father did not prepare her for. She said times were better then.

"At that time, democracy was very strong, but since martial law, we had really had all of these threats to democracy," she said in a news briefing at the Palace.

But she said times were getting better.

"The fact that we were able to quell it in one day, it's a big tribute to our maturing democracy," she said, noting that this was done in an "almost bloodless" way.

Asked how history would judge her for the bloody suppression of the riots and her subsequent declaration of a "state of rebellion," the President said she was leaving it up to God.

"I will just have to do what's right and do my best and let God take care of history," she said.

Iron lady

Told that she might be tagged as some sort of an "iron lady," she joked that this was the impression her children have of her.

"My children said that 'many say Cardinal Sin is a priest who's a secret politician.' Then they said apparently 'I'm a politician who's a secret soldier,'" Ms Macapagal said.

The President said she did not hate the rioters who wanted her ousted from office.

"I know that most of those who stormed Malacañang were programmed by would-be power grabbers to hate, to maim and even to kill."

She said a third of the Estrada supporters arrested during the attack on the Palace were found positive for drug abuse.

She said she was wondering where the drug supply came from.

"Who are behind this evil intent to first drug demonstrators before storming the Palace?" she asked. She said it would not take long for her administration to unmask the culprits.

Police announced that laboratory tests conducted yesterday on 73 rioters brought to Camp Crame showed that 24 of them were positive for drug use.

Shabu and marijuana

Director General Leandro R. Mendoza revealed that traces of methamphetamine hydrochloride, commonly known as *shabu, were* found on the urine samples submitted by 22 suspects.

Mendoza, the Philippine National Police (PNP) chief, said two suspects were found positive for tetrahydrocannabinol, indicating that they used marijuana.

Police investigators subjected all arrested rioters to drug testing to validate reports that most of those who stormed the Palace exhibited extremely violent behavior.

Chief Supt. Nestorio Gualberto, director of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), said the drugs taken by the rioters gave them high resistance to pain and tolerance to tear gas exposure.

Gualberto presented to the media 11 firearms and other deadly weapons seized from the protesters.

Members of the Civil Disturbance Management (CDM) contingent, who defended Malacañang, noted the "hyperactive" condition of the rioters armed with homemade shotguns, knives, sticks, lead pipes and rocks.

Of the 73 arrested rioters, 48 were from Barangay Holy Spirit in Quezon City, nine from San Juan, eight from Sta. Mesa, Manila, and the rest from Antipolo City and Caloocan City and Novaliches and Balara in Quezon City.

Same address

Of the 48 who came from Barangay Holy Spirit, 31 gave the same address, No. 112 Area C while 17 said they were residing at 83 North Zuzuarregui St.

Police seized from the bags of the suspects a .45 cal. pistol, two .38 cal. revolvers, six homemade .38 cal. handguns, an Ithaca 12-gauge shotgun, two homemade shotguns known as *sumpak*, steel bars and stones.

They also yielded pieces of police anti-riot equipment looted during the dispersal operation.

The police impounded six motor vehicles used by the rioters.

Some suspects claimed that they were affiliated with the People's Movement Against Poverty, according to Mendoza. They pointed to a certain Ronald Lumbao as their leader.

Some of the suspects bore tattoos indicating their membership with the Sigue-Sigue Sputnik, Batang City Jail and Bahala Na gangs.

Probers said the Estrada loyalists admitted receiving P500 to P1,000 each—P500 to attend the Edsa Shrine rally and P1,000 for joining the march on Malacañang. The loyalists refused to talk with the reporters.

The CIDG is conducting a thorough background check on the suspects to determine whether they have criminal records.

The suspects were presented before the Inquest Prosecutor of the Department of Justice last night.

The PNP has assured the public that it will respect the constitutional rights of the suspects.

The suspects were presented to the media at the Western Police District.

Most of them denied taking part in the rampage. One of them, Norberto Donato Jr. of Camarin, Caloocan City, said he was a member of the Iglesia ni Cristo and that he went to Mendiola on orders of their local pastor to defend the Constitution.

"There's nothing wrong with going to Malacañang to fight for what we think is right," he told reporters. But he denied any participation in the looting or destruction of police and media vehicles that followed the dispersal.

Robert Reyes (not the Running Priest) claimed he was selling cigarettes in front of the San Sebastian College when the dispersal took place. He said he was later picked up by the police and forced to admit owning the pillboxes and daggers.

"I'm not capable of joining rallies, see?" he said, showing reporters his right lower leg, which had been shrunk by polio. ***With a report from Christine Herrera***

NOWHERE was Sen. Gregorio Honasan in a house in Alta Vista, Quezon City, where he was alleged to be hiding. EDWIN BACASMAS

Erap loyalists rampage cost ₱100M

(From page A1)

ment and generator used in the construction of the Light Rail Transit II.

Also damaged were a Philippine Army jeep, at least 10 police and military fire trucks and buses, and other private vehicles.

At least five other media vehicles were also damaged. The rioters stoned the vehicles.

Pacinos said the back shield of his car was stoned and damaged after protesters screaming "*Malapit nang maging atin ang* Malacañang!" tried to attack him and his men on J.P. Laurel Street.

The police community precinct compound on Roces Bridge was heavily damaged after the loyalists pelted it with rocks and tried to set it on fire.

Police operations aimed at rounding up the remaining Estrada loyalists in Sta. Mesa resulted in damage to several shops, including an ATM booth on R. Magsaysay Boulevard and Santolan Road.

Several stores on C.M. Avenue and J.P. Laurel Street were also stoned and looted by the protesters.

On Rizal Avenue in Sta. Cruz, fleeing loyalists stoned lampposts and traffic lights.

Before the Estrada supporters marched to Malacañang, they vandalized the Edsa Shrine where they had gathered for six days.

Damage to psyche

Msgr. Socrates Villegas, rector of the Edsa Shrine, said the greatest damage wrought by the pro-Estrada demonstration was not on the physical structures of the Church but on the values of the Filipino people.

"It's easy to repair the building made of stone and steel but what is difficult to repair is the damage done by the organizers of the pro-Estrada demonstration to the values of the Filipino people. When you manipulate the minds and hearts of the poor, that is the greatest crime," Villegas said.

Pacinos himself was surprised by the trail of destruction left by the protesters.

"I cannot imagine what kind of people they are . . . It's only now that I see such violence," he told the INQUIRER.

Asked why the protesters were able to penetrate the Palace's perimeter defenses, he said, "We could easily disperse them if we were ordered to shoot . . . but we were told to exercise maximum tolerance. Later we had to retreat (because we were outnumbered)."

"We can't stop them unless we shoot," he said. "I need only 100 heavily armed men to do it."

Atienza also condemned the Estrada supporters, saying "there is no place in the city for anarchists, hooligans and vandals."

The CBCP said Filipinos should be vigilant enough not to allow people power to be abused by the rich and powerful to pursue the personal political agenda of a few personalities.

"The people who were on Mendiola are not the enemy. They were also victimized in a way and we commiserate with them, especially those who lost their loved ones during the dispersal," said Msgr. Hernando Coronel, media director of the CBCP.

No hate for rioters

President Macapagal-Arroyo said she did not hate those who were out to harm her and to remove her from power.

"As a Filipino, I feel sad every time I see on television the faces of our countrymen who are not aware that they are being exploited by the dark forces in our society," she said.

"I don't harbor anger or hatred for our poor countrymen in spite of their attempt to attack the Palace yesterday," she said.

This was why, she said, she had mixed feelings of happiness and sadness over the success of government forces in repelling the attack on the Palace.

In spite of the upheaval wrought by Estrada's supporters who belonged to the marginalized sector, had done, the President said she had ordered government agencies, especially the Department of Social Welfare and Development, to intensify their work to help the poor.

Angara offers financial support

Opposition senatorial candidate Edgardo Angara has formed a group to provide financial, medical and legal assistance to the victims of the Mendiola rally.

"Much of my activity now will revolve around helping those dislocated by the violent dispersal of the protesters," Angara said.

The support group is headed by lawyer Demaree Raval and can be reached at telephone numbers 8816780 and 8816781.

Probe of civilian death

The WPD's homicide section has started the investigation of the death of the fourth civilian fatality, Tiburcio Arciage, 54, of 1127 Arlegui St. in Quiapo.

Arciage and his grandson Marco Tadeja left their house on Arlegui after hearing the gunfire that signaled the dispersal, according to investigator SPO1 Steve Casimiro.

Tadeja said the victim was hiding near the PLDT office on Arlegui and was peeking from a wall to see what was happening outside when a bullet hit him on the left cheek.

Arciage was brought to the Manila Medical Center in Ermita but it was too late. The police will determine where the bullet that killed the victim came from.

Two of the slain civilians Efren Malacer, 32, of Sta. Rosa, Laguna, and a certain Jhun Bado, between 35 and 40 years old were shot during the dispersal.

The third fatality, Raul Rosal of Malabon, was shot in the Sta. Mesa clash.

They were pronounced dead upon arrival at the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center and later brought to the Sanctuary Funeral Homes in Sta. Cruz.

Police fatality

Pasinos clarified that the lone police fatality, PO3 Rolando Abello, was not killed during the dispersal.

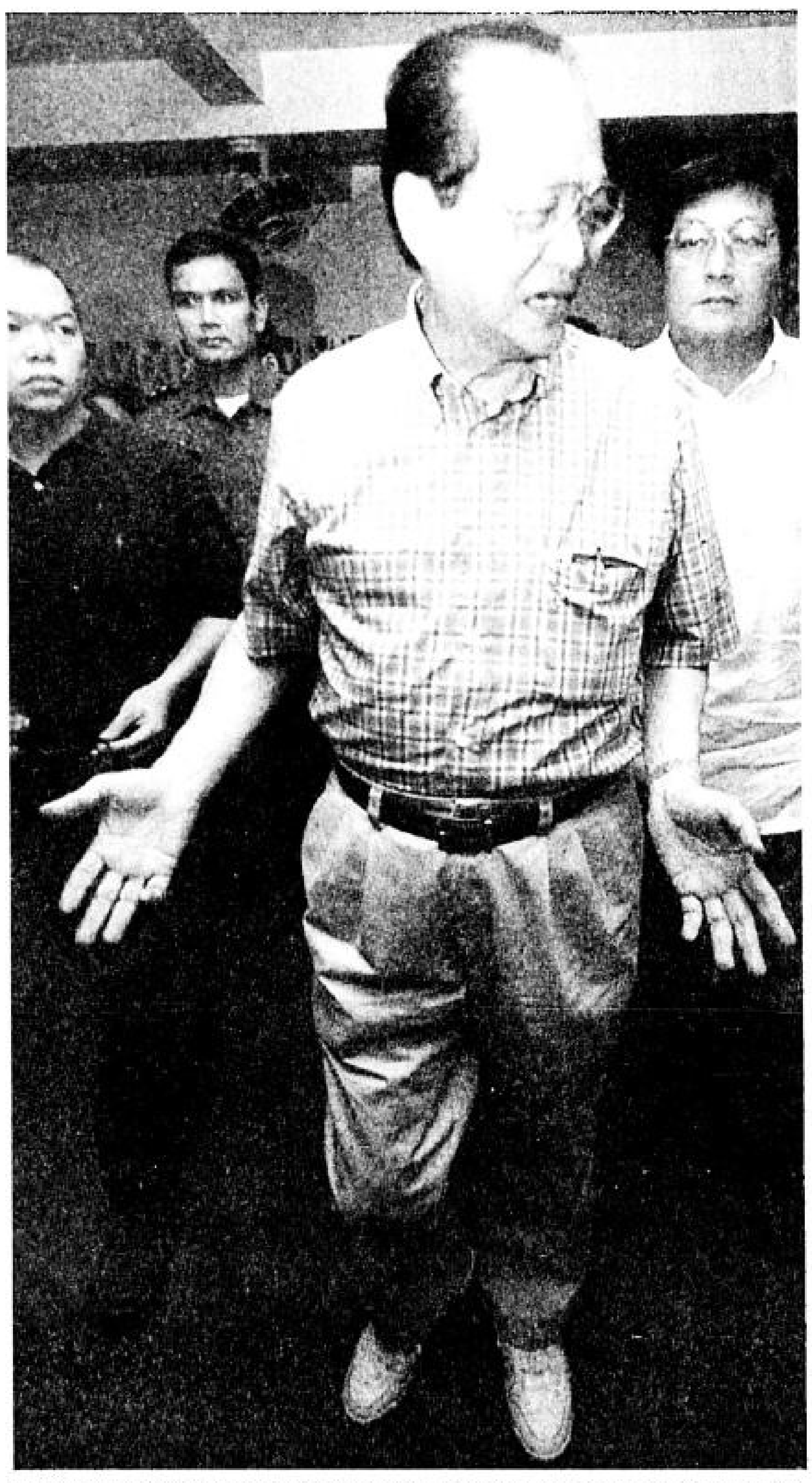
Abello, 36, an operative of the WPD Station 3's Plaza Miranda community precinct, was shot dead late Monday night by unidentified men while patrolling along Quezon Boulevard beside the Quiapo Church.

Abello and his partner, PO2 Guillermo Sartin were shot at by a group of men that they tried to accost for acting suspiciously, according to Pacinos.

The WPD's homicide section had earlier said that Abello's killers could be holdup men.

Pasinos said he would recommend the promotion of all policemen wounded in action during the dispersal. *(See story on Page A1.)*

With reports from Norman Bordadora, Armand N. Nocum and Carina Ronces Valles



ARRESTED for alleged acts of rebellion, former senator and ambassador. Ernesto Maceda, submits himself to the arresting team led by Intelligence chief Reynaldo Berroya (at right). EDWIN BACASMAS

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: NBA Playoffs, First Round at 12 noon on RPN 9 (r- 5:30 p.m. on IBC 13)

NBA Anthology '89 Detroit Pistons - Motor City Madness at 10:30 p.m. on ESPN

BASEBALL: Wednesday Night Baseball at 10 a.m. on ESPN

HOCKEY: NHL Conference Semifinals Game #3 at 1 p.m. (r) on ESPN

TENNIS: ATP Atlanta Tennis Challenge, Semifinals at 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

GOLF: PGA Greater Greensboro Chrysler Classic, Final Round at 8 a.m. (r), Tour Highlights at 11:30 p.m. on Star Sports

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Holy Bull inducted

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky—Holy Bull, who earned Horse of the Year honors in 1994 despite finishing 12th in the Kentucky Derby, was one of five inductees into horse racing's Hall of Fame Tuesday. Trainer Richard Mandella, jockey Earlie Fires and champion fillies Paseana and Maskette also were elected. Holy Bull, bred by the Pelican Stable in Florida, won eight stakes in 10 starts in 1994. The gray colt won the Hutcheson, Florida Derby and Blue Grass Stakes, before his Derby downfall.

WINNER-TAKE-ALL

SMB enters finals; Shell prevails

Bernardino out of 'ICU'

PHILIPPINE Basketball Association Commissioner Emilio P. Bernardino has been moved out of the Intensive Care Unit of the Capitol Medical Center yesterday and transferred to a private room, according to the league's Media Bureau.

Bernardino, the league's top honcho since 1994, was admitted to the ICU of Capitol Monday afternoon after being airlifted from Baguio. He complained of shortness of breath and dizziness while vacationing with his family in Baguio over the weekend.

The PBA Commissioner is suffering from a ventricular problem, which in layman's terms is an irregular heartbeat, and which is being closely monitored by attending physicians and members of his family.

The steady progress of his condition has made doctors move him out of ICU.

Renauld N. Barrios, the longtime Executive Director of Bernardino, has temporarily taken over and is the Officer-in-Charge until Bernardino's return.

SAN MIGUEL Beer finished off Pop Cola, 91-87, last night to make its 23 rd PBA Finals appearance even as Shell Velocity forced a rubber match against Barangay Ginebra in the All-Filipino Cup twin semifinal series at the Philsports arena.

Nic Belasco hit an undergoal while Danny Seigle made a free throw to help the Beermen recover from an endgame collapse and assure themselves of a 3-1 victory in their best-of-five series.

The Beermen will face whichever team wins in the Shell-Ginebra match tomorrow at Araneta Coliseum.

Shell Velocity beat Barangay Ginebra 78-67, to level their PBA semifinal series at 2-2.

With the win, the Turbochargers are now on the verge of duplicating their 1999 All-Filipino victory in which they swept the Gin Kings after being similarly down, 0-2, to win the crown, 3-2.

But in a best-of-five semifinal series, no team has ever come back from a 0-2 deficit.

"At least now we are going to Game 5 on a positive note," said Shell coach Perry Ronquillo. "We want to make a series out of it and put pressure on them."

The Gin Kings lost a 12-point, first-quarter lead (23-11) before collapsing in the homestretch as the Turbochargers virtually duplicated their well-orchestrated offensive in Game 3.

Shell again used the shots from afar to destroy Ginebra, launching its assault from the halfcourt with calculating semi slowbreak.

CHAIR Iggy Yenko of the Philippine Basketball Association said yesterday that "it's business as usual" for the country's premier league in the wake of Jun Bernardino's inability to fulfill his duties as PBA commissioner. Yenko said the league's operations won't be affected "because it has already an existing set-up. We all hope for his speedy recovery." Yenko said the PBA board meeting last Monday was postponed due to "political unrest in Metro Manila."

Shell anchored its arsenal with its huge 50 rebounds, 14 second-chance points and a 33-of-78 clip from the floor.

But Ginebra coach Allan Caidic did not sulk after the game.

"Now, after losing a 2-0 edge, we've been given the chance to have some true test of character," said Caidic. "If we fail to recover in Game 5, we lose that test altogether."

Scores:

SHELL 78 – Jackson 18, Esplana 18, Paras 14, Telan 11, Wainwright 9, Dela Cruz 5, Hrabak 2, Dualan 0, Singson 0.

GINEBRA 67 – Limpot 16, Caguioa 15, Helterbrand 9, Meneses 8, Calpito 7, Lago 5, Crisano 4, David 2, Magtulis 1.

Quarters: 16-26, 42-40, 62-53, 78-67.

BERNARDINO: Recovering well

Unbeaten Shark goes for 8th win in PBL today

STANDINGS	W	L
Shark	7	0
Ana Freezer	5	1
PharmaQuick	3	3
Welcoat	3	3
GIV Soap	3	3
Ateneo-Pioneer	2	3
Montaña	2	4
Hapee	1	4
Osaka	0	6

GAMES TODAY *(Makati Coliseum)*
3:30 p.m.—Osaka Iridology vs Welcoat
5:30 p.m.—Shark Energy vs Montaña

UNBEATEN Shark Energy Drink guns for its eighth win and a sweep of the PBL Chairman's Cup eliminations today against slumping Montaña Pawnshop at the Makati Coliseum.

Barring any case of overconfidence, the Power Boosters, reigning Challenge Cup winners, should have no trouble beating the Jewels, who are playing hot and cold this conference.

The Shark-Montaña clash is set at 5:30 p.m. after the 3:30 curtain-raiser between defending champion Welcoat Paints and Osaka Iridology.

Much of the Jewels' woes can be traced to their failure to solve the riddle of the zone defense. Montaña's lack of reliable shooters has been exploited by their rivals.

In contrast, Shark has displayed resiliency in its past games. Coach Leo Austria's charges can easily shift from zone to man-to-man.

"We cannot be a one-dimensional team. Shark follows a system, but the element of surprise should always be considered," said Austria.

Welcoat (3-3) should have no trouble beating Osaka, which is still winless in six games. The only attraction in this game is how will Ren Ren Ritualo fare against his La Salle teammates donning the Osaka colors.

A victory will give the Paintmasters solo third.

Despite the presence of ex-pros Rommel Daep and Jessie Cabanayan, Osaka has been the conference's disappointment. It has the bad habit of playing well in the first three quarters, only to collapse in the final quarter.

KEIJI "The Prince" Yamaguchi of Japan (left) and Filipino champion Gerry Peñalosa pose before the cameras during yesterday's press preview. ROMY HOMILLADA

Bucks eliminate Magic

Mavericks rout Jazz, live another day

ORLANDO, Florida—The Milwaukee Bucks advanced to the second round of the NBA playoffs Tuesday night as Ray Allen scored 26 points and Sam Cassell had 14 of his 25 points in the third quarter in a 112-104 victory over the Orlando Magic.

The Bucks, who hadn't won a playoff series since 1989, will face the Charlotte Hornets in the Eastern Conference semifinals.

Tracy McGrady, who set a playoff record for a four-game series with 123 field-goal attempts, scored 25 points for the Magic. Rookie guard Mike Miller broke out of a shooting slump with 22 points.

But it wasn't enough as Milwaukee had 75 points in the second and third quarters to take control.

In Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki scored 16 of his 33 points in the third quarter, and Steve Nash had 27 points as Dallas routed Utah to force a decisive fifth game in their first-round series. The series finale will be Thursday night in Salt Lake City (Friday in Manila). *AP*

Adamson nips UST cagebelles, 44-42

GAMES TOMORROW *(FEU Gym)*
8 a.m.—UE vs UST-B (Seniors-B)
9.30 a.m.—Ateneo-A vs Adamson (Juniors-A)
11 a.m.—St. Jude vs Letran (Seniors-A)
12.30 p.m.—San Beda-B vs Mapua (Seniors-A)
2 p.m.—UP vs San Sebastian (Seniors-A)
3:30 p.m.—Adamson vs Angelicum (Seniors-B)

WOMEN'S champion Adamson University got its Fr. Martin Cup basketball campaign back on track yesterday by nosing out UST B, 44-42, at the PCU gym.

The Adamson belles levelled their record at one-win, one-loss in the cagefest sanctioned by the Basketball Association of the Philippines led by Gonzalo "Lito" Puyat II and jointly sponsored by Agfa, Photo Plus, Red Bull and Smart-Piltel.

Yamaguchi: Gerry will eat his words

CHALLENGER Keiji "The Prince" Yamaguchi of Japan said yesterday Gerry Peñalosa "will eat his words" when they clash on Saturday at the Araneta Coliseum.

"Not possible, no knockout," said Yamaguchi in response to Peñalosa's boast that he would knock out the Japanese when the Filipino defends his WBC International superflyweight title. "Yamaguchi will win."

Peñalosa, holding a 42-3-2 record with 26 knockouts, is defending the crown for the second time after he floored Rathanachai Sor Vorapin in the sixth round in Parañaque last year.

Yamaguchi (29-6, with 11 Kos) lost on points a while back to In Joo Cho, the former Korean champion who beat Peñalosa twice on points. *June Navarro*

SPORTSWATCH

Abo triple lifts Padala to victory

CEBU CITY—Controversy erupted yesterday as Ranulfo Abo hit a buzzer-beating triple that gave ML Kwarta Padala an 87-86 victory over multi-titled M. Lhuillier in the 1st OHM CBKL-MICAA Summer Showdown at the Tabunok Sports Complex here. A near fistfight marred the game after referee Edwin Dejacto counted Abo's shot. Lhuillier coach Raul "Yayoy" Alcoseba said the shot was made with no time left. But Commissioner Danny Duran ruled the shot good.

Suicide victim not drunk?

CHAIR Carlos Tuason of the Philippine Sports Commission said yesterday that initial findings indicate that Jerome Quimsing was not intoxicated when he allegedly committed suicide by hanging on Monday at the North Tower of the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex. Quimsing, a 23-year-old pencak silat player, reportedly had a drinking spree with a roommate, baseball national team member Andrew Cuyugan, prior to his death. It was said Quimsing got depressed when his girlfriend left him. "We are waiting for the autopsy report but initial findings suggest that the athletes were not intoxicated during the incident," said Tuason, who gave P50,000 to Quimsing's family.

Gold Cup derby postponed; JRB on

THE MANAGEMENT of Mandaluyong Coliseum wishes to apologize to its followers for the postponement of the scheduled Gold Cup 5-Cock Derby due to the bloody riot at Mendiola near Malacañang on Tuesday, May 1. However, the "JRB Flyover 5-Cock Derby," hosted by former Ucap member Bobby Wong, will definitely push through on Saturday, May 5.

Big nights for Deion, Ventura and Kent

CINCINNATI (AP) - Deion Sanders had a big night in his return. Robin Ventura and Jeff Kent had even more impressive performances at the plate. Ventura hit his 15th career grand slam, breaking a tie with Ken Griffey Jr. for the most among active players, as the New York Mets beat the Houston Astros 7-5 Tuesday night. "You have to be patient and wait until they have to throw strikes," said Ventura, ninth overall on the career slams list. Jay Powell intentionally walked Mike Piazza to pitch to Ventura, who fouled off three straight pitches, working the count to 3-2 before connecting on his eighth pitch. Ventura is 49-for-139 (.353) with the bases loaded. **Baseball results: National League**—Arizona 8, Montreal 3; Philadelphia 7, Colorado 1; San Francisco 11, Pittsburgh 6; Cincinnati 7, Los Angeles 6; Milwaukee 5, Atlanta 3; Florida 4, St. Louis 3; N.Y. Mets 7, Houston 5; San Diego 10, Chicago Cubs 3. *AP*

Kafelnikov ousted by unknown

MUNICH, Germany—Austrian qualifier Werner Eschauer upset top-seeded Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia in three sets in the first round of the BMW Open clay-court tournament Tuesday. Eschauer rallied to win 6-7 (2), 7-5, 6-3 and cause a minor sensation. Kafelnikov is No. 6 in the Champions Race, but he is now 0-2 on clay this season. He lost to another Austrian, Markus Hipfl, in the opening round of the Monte Carlo masters Series last month. Hipfl didn't survive the first round here either, losing 6-1, 7-5 to Jiri Novak of the Czech Republic. Second-seeded Thomas Enqvist of Sweden eased into the second round of the $400,000 event, beating Daniel Elsner of Germany 6-4, 6-1. Enqvist, making a slow comeback from shoulder and foot surgery at the end of last year, is playing only his sixth tournament of the year. A semifinalist in Barcelona last week, Enqvist won the BMW Open in 1998, where he also made his professional debut in 1989. Two other seeded players, No. 6 Marcelo Rios of Chile and No. 8 Sjeng Schalken of the Netherlands, also advanced. *AP*

Chess slated May 5

THE MAY edition of the Philippine Chess Society (PCS) Executive Chess Days will unfold at the Grandmasters' Café on Saturday (May 5) at 1 p.m.

The 6-Round Swiss melee is open to all professionals and gainfully employed chess loving enthusiasts who wish to experience a full-blooded exchange of strategies and tactics on the checkered boards.

For inquiries, call Joey Moseros and Nora Manguelod at 929-3683 or 414-2302.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA
BY MR 999

Race 1—1. Chichana 2. Justsaywhenjen 3. Show Money

Race 2—1. King Aldrin 2. Pasikatera 3. Prince of Africa 4. She's So Sure

Race 3—1. Mr. Positive 2. Tellmetonight 3. Spoiler 4. Bright Task/ Sunny View 5. Zip On 6. Rose In Bloom

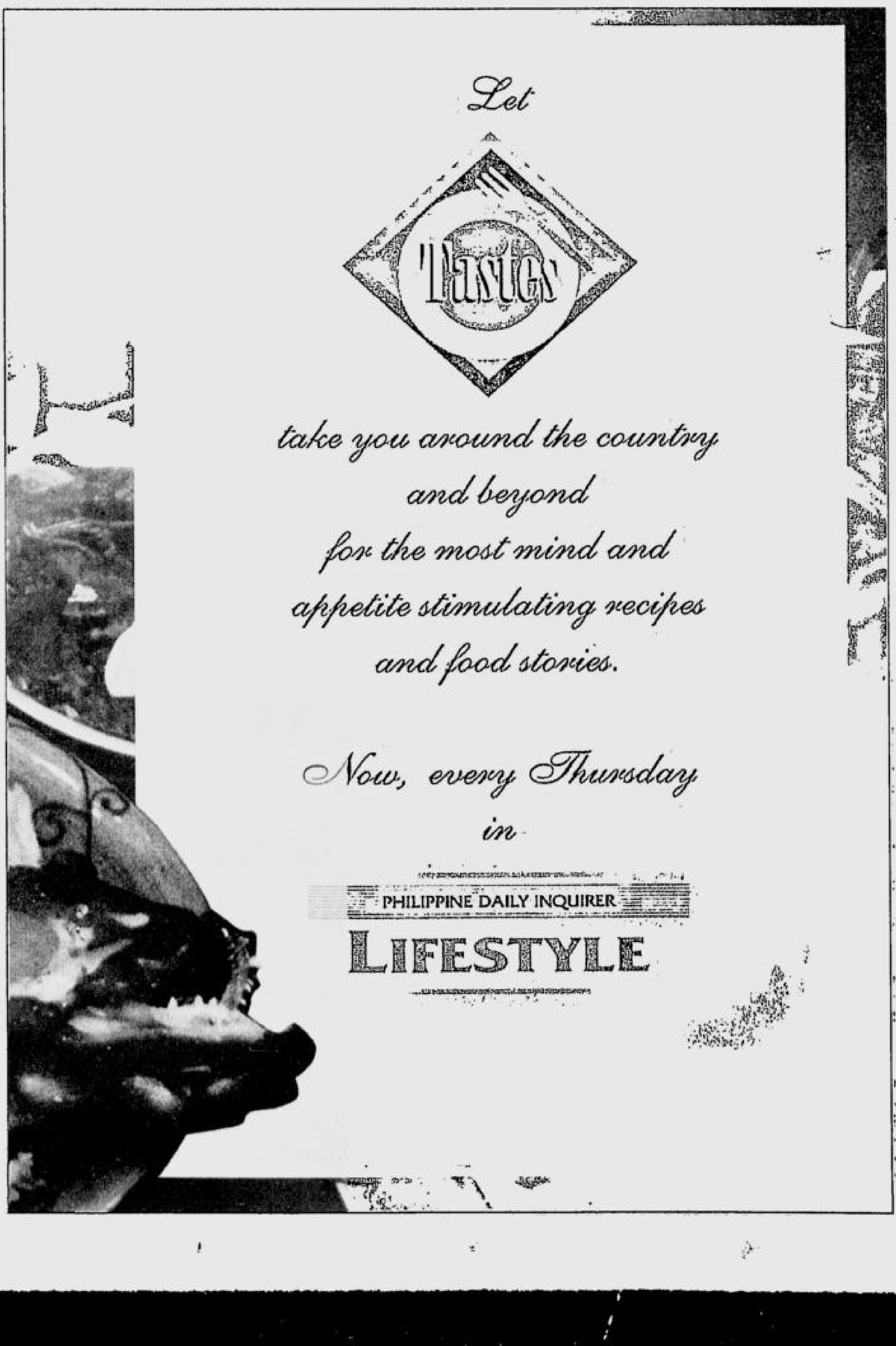
Race 4—1. Slew's Pleasure 2. Sweet Topic 3. Cue Artist 4. Sunrise 5. Strong Bird

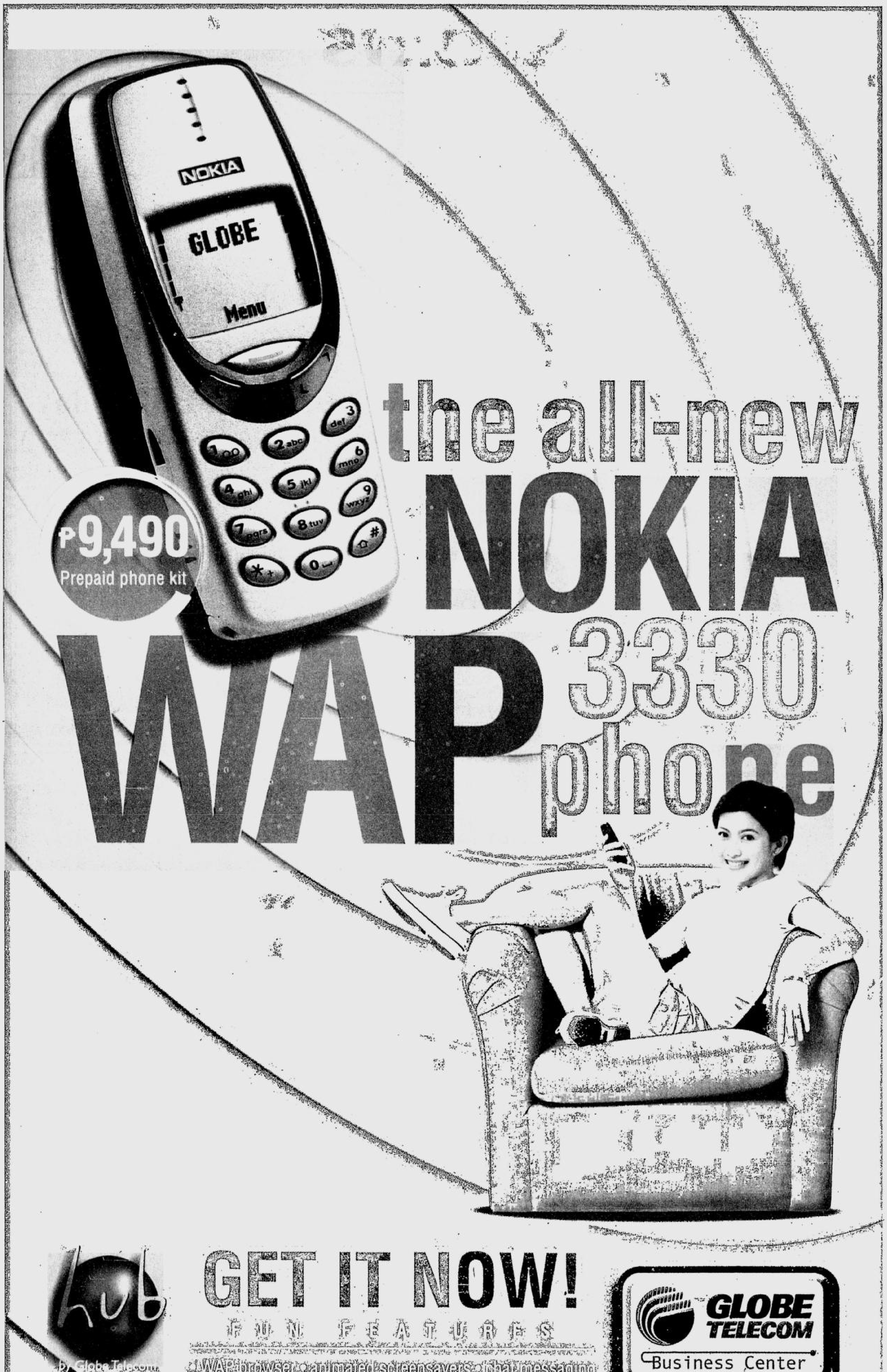
Race 5—1. Free Entrance 2. Something Best 3. Expose 4. The Magician

Race 6—1. Hope 2. Septembermorn 3. Lady Chip 4. Charmingly Chit 5. Del Mar

Race 7—1. Little Voices 2. True to Life 3. Nine West 4. Sukiyaki Blues

Race 8—1. Heavy Metal 2. A Fair to Remember 3. Sir Olizon 4. Bull Run Slew 5. Champs Elysees





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Erap fan shoots wife

NAGGED by his wife for coming home late from a pro-Estrada rally at the Edsa Shrine, a man shot his wife in the head during an argument at home on Makaturing Street,Mandaluyong City on Tuesday. Analie Desocatan, 32, is fighting for her life after being shot by her husband Felix, 40. The suspect fled and remains at large. *A. Donato*

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

▨ On Target: Insulting the poor height of arrogance A18

Rallies banned in Manila

BY JEROME ANING
AND DAVE VERIDIANO

THE WESTERN Police District has banned all forms of public protests and gatherings throughout Manila for the duration of the "state of rebellion" declared by Malacañang.

WPD director Senior Supt. Nicolas Pacinos Jr. said rally organizers and participants, whether they are for or against government, "will either be arrested or dispersed."

RALLIES/A18

■ Abalos postpones waste segregation A18

▨ Inquirer being faked in Valenzuela A18

▨ Business as usual around Edsa Shrine A18

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Business as usual around Edsa Shrine

By Agnes E. Donato

THE SOLEMNITY inside the chapel was back. So were the regular parishioners and other worshipers who walk in to pause and pray.

A day after the week-long protest of the Estrada supporters turned into a bloody siege of Malacañang Palace, there was little indication that the Edsa Shrine had hosted members of a horde that turned violent in its mad drive to restore their imprisoned idol to the presidency.

Except for the presence of police and military men, the shrine, which was declared a holy ground by the Vatican, was practically back to normal as of yesterday.

Both sides of Edsa and Ortigas Avenue were again clogged with traffic.

A security guard at Robinson's Galleria said the mall nearest to the shrine had already returned to its regular store hours.

The mall, which used to close at 8 p.m. on weekdays, moved its closing time an hour earlier for the entire week that the pro-Estrada ralliers congregated at the shrine.

"The shoppers have come back. The parking space at the basement is again filled with cars," said Galleria guard Victor Son.

Only the stench of urine and the mounds of uncollected garbage were not missed.

Kompil 2 members and other Edsa 2 movers earlier started their reclamation of the shrine by cleaning up its surroundings.

Streamers of Kompil 2 and some of its allied organizations like Akbayan and Kaibigan ni Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (KGMA) have replaced the huge portraits of former President Estrada and the campaign materials of Puwersa ng Masa candidates.

Taking the place of the pro-Estrada ralliers, on the other hand, were hundreds of armed men in police and military uniform.

Marine Colonel Eduardo Ducusin said the police and military joined forces to secure the Edsa Shrine and "prevent anti-government groups from again using it to destabilize the Macapagal administration."

While Ducusin said that there was little chance that the Estrada loyalists would still dare to stage another protest at the shrine, authorities would not hesitate to disperse any hostile group approaching the shrine.

"The situation now is totally different. We cannot afford to treat demonstrators with maximum tolerance anymore. But definitely, we will not shoot them," Ducusin said.

He added that the joint task forces would be manning the shrine for an indefinite period of time, as they first had to ensure that "destabilizers" of the government would no longer make a comeback.

He refused to disclose the exact number of marines, army officers and men deployed in the area.

All he said was that some 220 policemen from Region V have been sent to augment the military forces around the Edsa Shrine, which has again reclaimed its status as a holy ground. *With a report from Nickson Ryan Matias*

VOLUNTEERS reclaim the Edsa Shrine by first cleaning up the ground which, church authorities claimed, had been desecrated by Estrada loyalists.

ROGER MARGALLO

Insulting the poor height of arrogance

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE POLICE and military handled the crisis last Tuesday with exceptional patience and forbearance. Although the mob that attacked Malacañang was violent, it was not met with equal violence.

The majority of the citizenry thinks the Arroyo administration's patience was tested to the limit. The way it reacted to the crisis—at least, while it was going on—was worthy of being listed in a book of records.

Only three persons were killed and scores wounded.

Considering the gravity of the violence and the size of the mob that stormed Malacañang, the number of casualties is low.

* * *

A lot of people still can't forget what happened on Mendiola 14 years ago when 13 demonstrating peasants were killed by government troops.

And yet, the rallyists did not even cross the demarcation line that separated them from the police and military anti-riot troops. All they did was to taunt the cops and soldiers. The mob last Tuesday was already trying to break the gates to the Presidential Residence and engaging the troops in pitched battles.

The police and military last Tuesday really handled the crisis with utmost patience.

* * *

A foreigner friend who has lived here for many years and has been to many countries in Asia said that the Filipino policemen and soldiers are very patient and non-violent.

He was commenting on the small number of casualties last Tuesday.

"If it had happened in Indonesia or Thailand, Mon, hundreds of people in the mob would have been killed. The cops would have fired at the crowd without mercy because some of them were already hurt," he said.

I told him Filipinos are a different breed.

* * *

Although the Arroyo administration was patient with the mob, some of its officials and political candidates were not charitable to the poor and ignorant rallyists.

Their statements did not help in appeasing the majority of the participants of the "poor people power".

Calling the participants "bathless and toothless" was the height of elitism and arrogance. Insulting a person's physical appearance on account of his being poverty-stricken is the height of arrogance.

Can you blame the poor for not being able to afford to pay the high water bills and expensive dental care?

* * *

This is not justifying the violence of the mob that lay siege on Malacañang, but most of the participants in last Tuesday's unruly rally were making a political statement.

The poor and ignorant were telling the government it was neglecting them. Deposed President Estrada, the ultimate liar and hypocrite, was able to convince the poor that their welfare was his primary consideration.

President Arroyo should reach out to the poor sector of the society. In words and deeds, she should convince them that the government will not neglect them.

* * *

The sooner GMA lifts the "state of rebellion" order the better for the economy and the ordinary people who misunderstand the proclamation.

Many citizens think that the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus and warrantless arrest might be used by the authorities for ordinary offenses not connected to rebellion.

During Marcos's martial law, people were arrested and detained without charges for offenses not connected to the country's destabilization for which martial law was declared in the first place.

GMA and his subordinates should make it clear that the "rebellion" proclamation covers only people who took part in last Tuesday's alleged attempt to bring down the government.

ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

The Mandaluyong Children's Chorus (above) will hold its second anniversary concert at 7:30 tonight at the Kaban ng Hiyas Cultural Hall of the Mandaluyong City Hall Complex. Baste L. Trinidad, a member of the Philippine Chamber Chorale, an invited member of the Ateneo Glee Club and a University of the Philippines Madrigal Singers alumnus, will conduct. Assisting artist is Ruth P. Quiñones.

Abalos postpones waste segregation

By Nelson F. Flores

METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority chairman Benjamin S. Abalos Sr. has ordered a temporary halt to the implementation of the segregated garbage collection scheme to allow massive cleanup of Metro Manila.

Abalos told the INQUIRER that he deferred the scheme after thousands of supporters of deposed President Estrada held protest actions throughout Metro Manila, generating so much garbage on the streets which MMDA personnel are hard pressed to clean up.

Abalos said local government officials have already been informed of the postponement.

"To implement the scheme now would be unfair to Metro Manila residents considering the amount of garbage which had piled up on the streets," Abalos said.

The MMDA chief said the segregated garbage collection scheme will be implemented on May 21 or as soon as MMDA personnel have cleaned up priority areas like the Edsa Shrine and Chino Roces Bridge.

But Abalos explained that the deferment does not mean government is wavering in its decision to push through with the garbage scheme.

Abalos stressed again that all Metro Manila establishments and households should segregate biodegradable waste for composting and non-biodegradable waste for recycling.

"Otherwise their waste won't be collected and if they throw their garbage wantonly, especially in public places, they would be arrested and fined," Abalos said.

According to Abalos, public market administrators, non-government organizations involved in recycling and composting, garbage collection contractors, solid waste management officers of local government units, barangay officials, and local government executives have already pledged support for the scheme.

"With this kind of support, there is no reason why the public cannot comply with the segregation scheme mandated by Republic Act 9003 (Ecological Solid Waste Management Act)," he said.

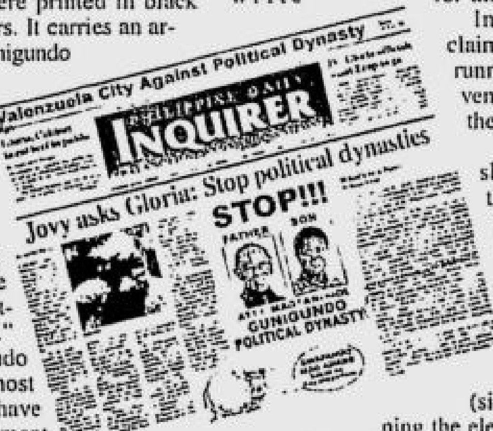
The collected waste would be processed at community-based recycling centers, the Manggahan depot or at the Las Piñas Transfer Station.

Inquirer being faked by Valenzuela bets

By Christian V. Esguerra

FAKE copies of the Philippine Daily Inquirer are circulating in Valenzuela City, allegedly put out by the present city mayor to discredit a father-and-son political tandem in the May elections.

The counterfeit copies were printed in black and white on long bond papers. It carries an article criticizing Magtanggol Gunigundo and his son, Magi, who are gunning for the city's two congressional districts.



Valenzuela City Against Political Dynasty
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Jovy asks Gloria: Stop political dynasties
STOP!!!
FATHER
SON
GUNIGUNDO POLITICAL DYNASTY

Magi Gunigundo, who is seeking a second term in the city's second district, accused reelectionist Mayor Emmanuel Carlos of putting out the copies, adding that the mayor is engaging in "a last-ditch effort to discredit (him)."

Political dynasty, Gunigundo said, is not an issue since most politicians, including Carlos, have relatives running for government posts, aside from those the Valenzuela mayor appointed during his term.

Eddie Lozada and wife Carmelita, the former said to be Carlos' cousin, served as councilor and city administrator respectively during the mayor's term, Gunigundo said.

The Lozada couple's nephew, Jojo Lozada Pacis, used to be Carlos' spokesperson and is now running for councilor, he added.

Vice Mayor Boy de Guzman, who is running for mayor, is said to be the cousin of former mayor Santiago de Guzman, who is seeking a congressional post. Another cousin Amang is running for councilor, according to Gunigundo.

Congressional bet Tony Serapio has nephews Roy Serapio Evangelista and Jun Santiago running for councilor in the city's second and first districts, Gunigundo said.

The bogus article is titled "What's in a name?" and carries the byline Santy Yorac who, according to INQUIRER city editor Gerry Lirio, does not write for the paper.

In the article, Yorac claims the Gunigundos are running so they could conveniently switch ballots in the elections.

"Political dynasty is slowly creeping beyond the grasp of power in Valenzuela City," the article said.

"The real predicament comes in the prospect of using the other's voting results, if they feels (sic) the chances of winning the election is bleak for both of them."

The fake copy also has mug shots of the Gunigundos with the statement "Stop Gunigundo political dynasty" written below the pictures.

At the bottom of the page is the INQUIRER trademark carabao, shown frowning and saying in a balloon statement: "*Swapang! Mag-amang sakim sa kapangyarihan.*"

On the left of the cartoon is a reprint of a legitimate INQUIRER article written by reporter Agnes Donato and titled "Jovy asks Gloria: Stop political dynasties."

"Valenzuela City Against Political Dynasty" is also bannered across the fake copy's umbrella area.

8 drug pushers nabbed in Taguig

EIGHT drug pushers, including the suspected number one dealer in Taguig, were arrested Monday night in a raid by elements of the Taguig Police Drug Enforcement Unit.

Supt. Artemio Bermido identified the suspects as Noel Santos, 28; Edison Nieva, 29; Arnel Papa, 44; Ramon Cruz, 38; Cipriano Santos, 23; Roger Osorio and Rio Bactad.

Bermido said Ariel Santos, of 95 M.L. Quezon St., Barangay Hagonoy, Taguig, is believed to be the number one drug dealer in Taguig. *Alcuin Papa*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, May 3, 2001
3rd Week of Easter

1st Reading: 1 Cor 15:1-8
Gospel: Jn 14:6-14

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father but through me. If you know me, you will know the Father also; indeed you know him and you have seen him."

Philip asked him, "Lord, show us the Father and that is enough." Jesus said to him, "What! I have been with you so long and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever sees me sees the Father; how can you say: 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?

All that I say to you, I do not say of myself. The Father who dwells in me is doing his own work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; at least believe it on the evidence of these works that I do.

Truly, I say to you, the one who believes in me will do the same works that I do; and he will even do greater than these, for I am going to the Father. Everything you ask in my name, I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. And everything you ask in calling upon my Name, I will do."

Commentary

Jesus makes no equivocation. He is the way to the Father. He is God's icon. He is the pointer of a greater reality beyond himself. In his humanity, he shows an alternative way of relating with God. We do not have to be as gods/goddesses, in the same manner our first parents had sought. For, it is in our humanity that God wants to meet us. Jesus, God's only Son, made this possible. He becomes God-indwelling among us. A person who like Jesus touches base with one's humanity can truly touch the divine indwelling.

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Top 10 workers awarded today

THIS year's Ten Outstanding Workers of the Republic (Tower) awards will be given out during a luncheon at the Centennial Hall of the Manila Hotel today.

Department of Labor and Employment Secretary Patricia Santo Tomas will be the guest of honor.

Rotary Club of Manila president Sebastian Arrastia will deliver the welcome address, while President-elect Ed Tumangan will introduce the guests and visiting Rotarians.

Tower Awards Committee chair Gert Gust and IT Fred Tejada will do the presentation of Tower Awards 2001, a project of the Rotary Club of Manila.

The seven awardees will receive their cash prizes, trophies and diplomas from Secretary Santo Tomas. Technological University of the Philippines president Fedeserio Camarao will confer the Bachelor of Technology degree to the winners. The Certificate of Scholarship Grant for master degree will be presented by Dr. Banjamin Tayabas, president of the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila.

R. Mangunay, 83

RENATA Carlos Mangunay of Cabanatuan City and Project 8, Quezon City passed away on Monday at the age of 83.

She is survived by children Dr. Danilo C. Mangunay, Celia M. Victoria, Armando, Carlos, Rogelio and Dr. Ramon.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz on Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, May 6, 10 a.m. at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina City.

S. Lloren, 40

Serafin Lloren of Project 6, Quezon City passed away on April 28, 2001 at the 40. Interment will be on Thursday, May 3, 8 a.m. at the Himlayan Pilipino.

Rallies banned . . . (From page A17)

Pacinos told the Inquirer that the prohibition came from the national police leadership to prevent a repeat of the bloody May 1 clashes between authorities and pro-Estrada groups.

Philippine National Police chief Director General Leandro R. Mendoza also created a new police group that would set up "more aggressive" checkpoints on major thoroughfares in Metro Manila over the next few days.

Mendoza's order came in the wake of intelligence reports that pro-Estrada demonstrators, backed by an armed component, are planning to launch another destabilization move.

The newly created group, to be called the PNP Special Action Group, will strictly implement the Comelec-imposed gun ban in Metro Manila throughout the election period.

Mendoza said that he has already relayed the order-part of the police operation dubbed "Oplan Matanglawin"-to all police stations in Metro Manila on Tuesday night.

The SAG is made up of composite teams from the National Capital Region Police Office, Intelligence Group, Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, Police Security and Protection Office, Traffic Management Group, and the Maritime Group.

The NCRPO under Deputy Director General Romeo L. Peña is designated as the lead unit of the SAG.

The SAG teams are organized as rapid deployment units and are on alert round-the-clock for deployment to any point in Metro Manila.

Earlier, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza imposed a ban on protests at the vicinity of the Chino Roces Bridge and Malacañang. His spokesperson said the city government's Bureau of License and Permits would not be issuing permits for rallies on the bridge.

The WPD ban on rallies covers not only Roces Bridge and other streets leading to the Palace but also the Liwasang Bonifacio, Rizal Park, Plaza Miranda, the United States Embassy and other government offices in Manila such as the Supreme Court, Department of Justice and City Hall.

"We will not allow any rally yet," WPD chief Pacinos said, adding that he did not want to give demonstrators a chance to regroup and gain strength in number.

But about 20 members of the labor group Sanlakas and its party-list affiliate Partido ng Manggagawa openly defied the order by staging a two-hour picket at the foot of Don Chino (formerly Mendiola) Bridge near the Palace yesterday afternoon.

The demonstrators denounced the "state of rebellion" which President Macapagal-Arroyo declared on Tuesday, calling it a "prelude to martial law."

Michelle Cudin, Sanlakas spokesperson, said the ban on pro- and anti-Estrada rallies violates the citizens' right to free expression and public gathering.

"If the government does not want pro-Estrada protests, it should first change its rotten system and act on the concerns of the masses," Cudin said.

But Pacinos said there are exceptions to the ban. He said pro-government assemblies, particularly those organized by Cabinet members and other government officials, will be allowed.

But he was quick to add that such rallies "should not be held right now because it's still dangerous."

"Such rallies might provoke Estrada loyalists in the city or they could be infiltrated (by agitators)," Pacinos explained. "Even if the gatherings were pro-government, we can't really be sure how it would turn out. *With a report from Carina Roncesvalles*

Mylene Dizon, breadwinner

By Marinel R. Cruz

IN the recent "Gatas sa Dibdib ng Kaaway," Mylene Dizon played Pilar, a strong-willed young mother who is torn between her love for and loyalty to her husband and country, and her affection for a compassionate enemy.

Much like Pilar, Mylene is free-spirited, independent and normally speaks what's on her mind. Wearing nothing but a sheer, skimpy chemise over a white thong, she keeps on talking for an interview even as she is in a photo shoot for For Him Magazine in photographer Ronnie Salvacion's studio in Makati.

While most girls her age still live with their parents, Mylene has been living all by herself in a cozy house in San Juan for the last five years.

"It's all *pikit-mata,* guts," she says of being on her own. "That's what my mother taught me. It's like, you think you cannot do it, or that you don't have enough money or you're afraid of responsibilities, but you just jump right into it. And then you get used to it."

Her family is based in the United States. "They're in Chicago. I couldn't stand it there, not because my parents are there and I want to be free or anything, I just can't stand the working environment."

She says she couldn't put up with the "money-dependent" life she led in the US, so she ran away and went back to Manila, bringing only a bag of clothes and P5,000. Soon, she found a steadily flourishing career in show business.

"I needed money desperately because I wanted to finish my schooling," she says. "So, I called up my agent and asked for a job. He said, 'Star Circle Batch 2.'"

Mylene was hesitant, even calling show biz *baduy.* She had a successful stint as a commercial model and she wanted to just keep on doing commercials.

Her agent tried to persuade her to try show biz, telling her, "You know, your friends Rico Yan and Trisha Salvador are also in Star Circle."

Recalls Mylene: "I told myself, I know those guys, and they're not *baduy. Si* Trisha *sosyal pa nga.'* I really needed money so I went."

She and Trisha became friends after they worked together in "Kada," a telemagazine show on ABC-5 a few years ago. That show lasted for just a little more than two years.

"We were so idealistic then," Mylene says. "We hoped to change television." The show, she says, had a good start, it had class, and each segment was well planned, but it just would not rate.

Several years before "Kada," Mylene appeared in a Close-Up ad as a support for another ABS-CBN talent, Onemig Bondoc. She was then in high school and doing the commercial was her first job.

She was thrilled by the experience and was positive that she was really going to make it in the commercial scene. "But sadly, I was always support or second lead. I never really made it like Giselle Toengi did. Hindi *gano'n ka*-effective *ang* beauty *ko.*"

Mylene took up Communication Arts at La Salle, not really in preparation for joining show business, she says, but mainly to train for her longtime dream of becoming a director. "I never aspired to be in front of the camera, but behind it. Up to now, I still want to direct."

She is currently working on her next movie. Though people involved in its production are not allowed to talk about it yet, Mylene hints that the movie is something new and surprising. "It will be a *panggulat* to Philippine cinema," she says. "It's very different from what we normally do."

Also keeping her busy is the new teleserye on ABS-CBN, "Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan," where she is the lone *kontrabida.*

In "Sa Dulo . . . ," she plays Sara, the secret love of Hector (Troy Montero). Sara is pregnant with his child.

"My role is going to grow big time," Mylene says.

But what is probably eating much of this self-reliant 25-year-old's time is supervising her new *pan de sal* shop in San Juan.

Together with her best friend, "Sports Unlimited" segment producer Carla de Rivera, Mylene put up a store called Luto sa Pugon (Oven-cooked), which sells sweet-smelling *pan de sal* baked in a clay oven over wood fire.

The bread shop at 194 A. Mabini Street in San Juan opened just a little over a month ago, "so it needs close watching," she explains.

Mylene wakes up two hours before she is scheduled to start her show biz commitments, just so she could check on the store.

"My best friend and I are *pan de sal* freaks," says Mylene. "Since we're always looking for *pan de sal,* we decided to put up our own store."

Mylene will grace the cover of FHM in June. She is also on the list of beauties nominated for the 100 Sexiest Women in the World 2001 Survey conducted also by FHM.

Readers can vote by using the official ballots found in the magazine. The ballots should be sent to the FHM office on Pioneer Street in Mandaluyong. Readers can also visit the magazine's website at www.fhm.com.ph.

Ballots may also be obtained at selected bars and magazine outlets, or by calling radio station 103.5 K-Lite FM.

PAN DE SAL "freak" Mylene Dizon says her next movie will be a "stunner." RONNIE SALVACION

Four women to help preserve Ricky Reyes' 'Beauty'

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

OUT of boredom, beauty expert and philanthropist **Ricky Reyes** decided to add new portions to his weekly TV program, "Beauty Plus." He invited three well-known women to be the new segment hosts.

"After you've been on TV for 12 years, you have to think of new ways to sustain the interest of your viewers," says Ricky.

"Beauty Plus," which airs Sundays, 11 a.m., on RPN 9, now also features portions on lifestyle, health, fitness, business and homemaking.

Ricky convinced her longtime friend **Chiqui Hollmann-Yulo** to return to TV years after she stopped hosting the noontime show "Eat Bulaga" and married businessman **Prandy Yulo.**

In "Beauty Plus," Chiqui hosts the "Lifestyle, Home and Garden" segment, where she features celebrity homes and shares tips on being a happy homemaker.

"Only Ricky can convince me to try TV hosting again," Chiqui says. "I'm learning a lot from my segment. I used to think there were only 20 varieties of rice, but when I featured the restaurant of **Mina Gabor,** I found out there are more than 200 *pala.*"

When she visits the homes of celebrities, she also gets to see the other side of the celebrities, she says. "I interviewed **Loren Legarda** about fixing her house and tutoring her kids. With her work in the Senate, you wouldn't think she'd have time to do these things."

Ricky also pried liposuction expert Dr. **Vicky Belo** away from her Makati clinic to do a regular TV hosting chore. In the segment "Belo Touch," she answers common beauty questions from viewers.

"Dr. Belo is perhaps the country's most famous cosmetic surgeon and skin care expert," Ricky notes. "She made liposuction a modern part of looking good."

Encar Benedicto-Ordoñez focuses on micro-entrepreneurs in the segment "Tele-Negosyo."

Young, vibrant **Ladine Roxas** tries to capture the Gen-X crowd through her portion, "Totally Hot, Totally Cool," on the latest trends.

Successful entrepreneur **Evelyn Mateo** looks into women power by baring the secrets of women achievers and recognizing their contributions to society.

"Evelyn's success story should inspire women who dream of heading their own companies," Ricky says.

Of course, Ricky still does his much-awaited magic makeover segment.

Malicious messages

GMA 7 denounces the malicious text messages being circulated by irresponsible mobile phone users about the network's talents, **Sunshine Dizon** and **Cogie Domingo.**

A statement issued by GMA vice president for production **Wilma Galvante** said Sunshine and Cogie are very professional and cooperative talents.

"The rumors that cast doubts on their professionalism as well as aspersions on their character are without basis and maliciously motivated," Galvante said in the statement.

"The network stands fully behind Sunshine and Cogie and requests that the people responsible for sowing intrigue" stop besmirching the reputation of the young actors.

Sunshine and Cogie are stars of GMA's new soap series, "Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin."

Guy and Pip together

THEY'RE not making a new movie, much to the disappointment of their countless loyal fans who have continued to idolize them up to this day.

But last Sunday, superstar **Nora Aunor** and her erstwhile screen tandem **Tirso Cruz III,** were seen anew in one stage.

Guy went to Las Piñas to campaign for Pip, who is running for vice mayor. She attended a rally Sunday night to endorse Pip. She even regaled the crowd with a few song numbers.

The audience, most of whom were apparently Guy and Pip fans, were thrilled at the sight of their two idols together again.

Nora went out of her way, despite her busy schedule in Camarines Sur, where she is also campaigning for her gubernatorial post

RICKY Plus 3: "Beauty Plus" host Ricky Reyes with his three female cohosts (from left) Chiqui Holllmann-Yulo, Dr. Vicky Belo and Encar Benedicto-Ordoñez.

Lakas, not LAMP

IN OUR news article, "Sharon, Helen keep ties above politics" (PDI – 04/30/01), we wrote that lawyer **Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan,** husband of megastar **Sharon Cuneta,** asked Sen. **Tito Sotto** if he could join LAMP, which is a coalition of the LDP.

Helen Gamboa-Sotto clarified on the phone last Monday that Kiko asked Lakas—and not LAMP—if he could join the party, prior to the impeachment of former President Estrada.

At that time, however, Lakas had no slate for Kiko, so Helen said her husband took it upon himself to bring Kiko to LDP.

"When the impeachment news broke out, I cannot blame Francis if he wanted to start on a clean slate, so he decided to join the other camp," Helen said.

"But he (Kiko) talked to Tito formally and asked to leave LDP," she added.

Kiko is now running for senator under the administration party, People Power Coalition (PPC).

Mitch show moved

A FAX message from **Mitch Valdes** said that due to the proximity of the Music Museum to Ortigas Avenue where the so-called "Edsa Tres" is taking place, her concert series "Mitch-ing de Abanse" has been moved to May 4 and 5, Friday and Saturday, in the same venue.

Tickets to the original performance dates (April 27 and 28) will be honored on the new show dates, according to Mitch.

"Mitch-ing de Abanse" musical director is **Lorrie Illustre.** For inquiries, call 891-5610 or 721-0635.

Last chance to see Gary V at Onstage Greenbelt

AFTER the ovations and encores, Gary Valenciano gives in to one final request. He returns onstage for the last performance of the highly successful concert series, "Gary V: By Request 2, The Repeat," 8:30 p.m. on May 4 at Makati's newest concert hall, Onstage Greenbelt.

The series drew an overwhelming response as attested by its five-weekend run. Gary showcased his versatility as a first-rate artist in the 10 performances which packed the posh entertainment venue.

Gary generously sang a varied repertoire of most requested tunes in his inimitable style. He thrilled the audience not just by dishing out tunes then and now, but also by singing jukebox hits of local artists such as April Boy Regino's "Di Ko Kayang Tanggapin" and Jessa Zaragoza's "Bakit Pa?"

Gary also sang his own hits like "Reaching Out," "Sana Maulit Muli" and "Take Me Out of the Dark," which were undoubtedly the crowd's favorites.

Moreover, he gave the audience some popular tunes from his latest and best-selling album, "Revive," like "I Believe," "Warrior is a Child" and "I Will Be Here."

Also catch Gary singing boy band hits, a medley of Hotdog songs, Barry Manilow originals and the music of top artists such as Ricky Martin, Michael Jackson, Earth, Wind and Fire, and even the signature songs of Martin Nievera and Regine Velasquez.

Gary also displayed his dancing skills and played the keyboards, drums and conga in some numbers. His son Gabriel joined him onstage for a veritable showdown which proved to be a well-applauded portion.

Joining Gary onstage are musical director Mon Faustino, the Powerplay Band, The Manoeuvres, and May Ann Casal Soriano and Melissa Fontano for backup vocals.

"Gary V: By Request 2, The Repeat" is produced by Manila Genesis Entertainment in cooperation with GV Productions for Maxi-Media International.

Ticket prices are P1,200, P800 and P600 available at SM Ticketnet at all SM Department Store branches (911-5555).

For inquiries, call Maxi-Media International at 813-8999 or Manila Genesis office at 722-7821/721-4405, local 200 or 208.

Supporting the concert are 105.1 Crossover, 94.7 Mellow Touch, Joey @ 92.3 Rhythms, 88.3 Citylite and 103.5 K-Lite.

VALENCIANO

ENTERTAINMENT AT FRIDAYS

TGI Friday's makes dining a lot more fun on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights with the new Friday's Night Dancers and Top Bar Masters. The group of talented dancers from the Friday's staff shows off their dancing skills as they swing and sway to today's hottest pop tunes. Then be amazed and amused by the bartender's juggling and tossing acts, sleight-of-hand tricks and other gimmicks.

Singers grace KTV opening

TOP balladeer Jun Polistico and signer-comedienne Marissa Sanchez are the stellar performers in the opening of Classmate Digital KTV, 7 tonight, May 3. Toti Fuentes is the musical director for the show.

Polistico is one of the most respected names in the music industry. His endearing voice has never failed to enchant audiences both here and abroad.

Sanchez, meanwhile, is now considered one of the country's premier singer-comediennes. A regular talent of ABS-CBN's noontime show, "Magandang Tanghali Bayan (MTB)," Sanchez continues to enthrall audiences with her powerful voice and hilarious punchlines. She recently launched her debut album under Viva Records.

Classmate Digital KTV has 40 rooms equipped with the latest digital karaoke and PABX telephone system. Adding to the party pelasures of the venue is its sophisticated intelligent lighting fixtures and sounds powered by Martin Audio.

POLISTICO

SM CINEMA GUIDE

SM Dial-A-Movie • Tel. 633-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR 4173868

1	DOLBY SURROUND	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
2	DOLBY SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	EXIT WOUNDS
4	DOLBY SURROUND	HALIK NG SIRENA
5	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE MEXICAN
6	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
7	DOLBY SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
8	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

SM CENTERPOINT 7149522 • 7161416

1	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	DOLBY SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
3	DTS	THE MEXICAN
4	DOLBY SURROUND	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	EXIT WOUNDS
6	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
7	DOLBY SURROUND	SUGAR AND SPICE
8	DOLBY SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
9	DOLBY SURROUND	HALIK NG SIRENA
10	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CHERRY FALLS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749

1	DOLBY SURROUND	EXTREME WARRIORS
2	DOLBY SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
3	DOLBY SURROUND	THE CROW
4	DOLBY DIGITAL	CHERRY FALLS
5	DOLBY SURROUND	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
6	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
7	DOLBY DIGITAL	EXIT WOUNDS
8	DOLBY SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
9	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
10	DOLBY SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
11	DOLBY SURROUND	ATTACK FORCE
12	DOLBY SURROUND	HALIK NG SIRENA

SM CITY MANILA 5239240

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE MEXICAN
2	DOLBY DIGITAL	SAY IT ISN'T SO
3	DOLBY SURROUND	CHERRY FALLS
4	DOLBY SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
6	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE MEXICAN
7	DOLBY SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
8	DOLBY SURROUND	SUGAR AND SPICE
9	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
10	DOLBY SURROUND	THE CROW
11	DOLBY SURROUND	HALIK NG SIRENA
12	DOLBY SURROUND	3.000 MILES TO GRACELAND

GUADALUPE COMM'L CTR. 8820950

1	ULTRA SURROUND	HALIK NG SIRENA
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS

SM MEGAMALL 6331901 • 6329401

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4	DTS	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
5	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
6	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SUGAR AND SPICE
9	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
10	DOLBY SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1	DOLBY SURROUND	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
2	DOLBY SURROUND	CHERRY FALLS
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HALIK NG SIRENA
4	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
5	DOLBY SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
6	DOLBY SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
7	DTS	THE MEXICAN
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	EXIT WOUNDS
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SUGAR AND SPICE
10	DOLBY SURROUND	EXTREME WARRIORS
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	ANTI-TRUST
12	DOLBY SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND

SM SOUTHMALL 8066888 • 8066782

1	ULTRA SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
2	ULTRA SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	EXIT WOUNDS
4	ULTRA SURROUND	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
5	ULTRA SURROUND	EXTREME WARRIORS
6	ULTRA SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
7	ULTRA SURROUND	HALIK NG SIRENA
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
9	ULTRA SURROUND	SUGAR AND SPICE
10	ULTRA SURROUND	CHERRY FALLS

TUTUBAN CENTER 2514302

1	ULTRA SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HALIK NG SIRENA

SM CEBU 2313876

1	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
2	ULTRA SURROUND	THE GIFT
3	ULTRA SURROUND	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
4	ULTRA SURROUND	ABAKADA...INA
5	ULTRA SURROUND	AIR BUD 3
6	ULTRA SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
7	DOLBY SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS

SM ILOILO 3209422

1	ULTRA SURROUND	THE SEDUCER
2	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
3	ULTRA SURROUND	AIR BUD 3
4	ULTRA SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
5	ULTRA SURROUND	ABAKADA...INA
6	ULTRA SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
7	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
8	ULTRA SURROUND	SECRET OF THE ANDES

SM PAMPANGA 7128015

1	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE MEXICAN
3	DOLBY SURROUND	ANTI-TRUST
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	EXTREME WARRIORS
5	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HALIK NG SIRENA
6	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

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GLORIETTA 1 formerly QUAD

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST?
2	EXIT WOUNDS
3	HALIK NG SIRENA
4	THE MEXICAN

GLORIETTA 4 All Digital Sound

1	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	SAY IT ISN'T SO In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	EXIT WOUNDS THX In DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	ANATOMY (Phil. Premiere) In DTS DIGITAL SOUND Art Film
5	FINDING FORRESTER In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	THE MEXICAN In DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	SUGAR AND SPICE In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1	SAY IT ISN'T SO In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2	EXIT WOUNDS In SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	SUGAR AND SPICE In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4	Onstage

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	EXIT WOUNDS THX In DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	SAY IT ISN'T SO In DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	THE MEXICAN In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	SUGAR AND SPICE In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

MMTA

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MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1	(DDS)	3.000 MILES TO GRACELAND
2	(SDDS)	RECESS
3	(DTS)	EXIT WOUNDS
4	GOLD (DTS)	SAY IT ISN'T SO
5	GOLD (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
6	GOLD (SDDS)	SUGAR & SPICE
7	GOLD (DOLBY)	THE MEXICAN
8	(PNG.)	CROUCHING TIGER
9	(PNG.)	NARING MO NA BA ANG LATEST
10	(PNG.)	HALIK NG SIRENA

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853 4486

1		NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2		EXTREME WARRIOR
3	(DTS)	
4		INIT NG DUGO
5		
6	(DTS)	

Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315

1	(DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
2	(DTS)	HALIK NG SERENA
3		NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

Masagana CINEMA GOLD
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	EXIT WOUNDS
3	HALIK NG SERENA

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1		CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2		NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3		THE MEXICAN
4	(DOLBY DIGITAL)	EXIT WOUNDS
5		HALIK NG SERENA

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543 4001

1	EXTREME WARRIOR
2	HALIK NG SERNA
3	RESERVE
4	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
5	THE MEXICAN
6	EXIT WOUNDS
7	INIT NG DUGO
8	3 000 MILES TO GRACELAND

LOUIE'S CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2010/892.3349

1	EXIT WOUNDS

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	ABAKADA...INA
2	WOMAN ON TOP

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515

1	HALIK NG SERENA
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
A	EXIT WOUNDS

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	EXIT WOUNDS
3	HALIK NG SERENA
4	

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1	(DOLBY)	EXIT WOUND
2		RESERV
3		RESERV
4		NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATES
5		HALIK NG SERENA
6		EXIT WOUND
7	(DTS)	THE MEXICAN
8	(SDDS)	SAY IT ISN'T S
9	(DOLBY)	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAN

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATES

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1		NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2		NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATES
3		HALIK NG SERENA
4	(SDDS)	EXIT WOUNDS
5		EXTREME WARRIOR
6	(DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
7	(DTS)	THE MEXICAN
8		MADERASO
9		ATTACK FORCE

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1	(DTS)	THE MEXICAN
2		NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATES
3		HALIK NG SERENA
4		NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATES
5	(SDDS)	3000 MILES TO GRACELAND
6		EXTREME WARRIOR
7	(DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
8		RECESS

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1		NARINIG MO BA ANG LATES
2		THE MEXICAN
3	(DTS)	EXIT WOUNDS
4		NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
5	(SDDS)	HALIK NG SERENA

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

Sampaquita
(Cubao) tel 911.7868

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	HALIK NG SERENA
Lords	WAG PO WAG PO
Jennet	HALIK NG SERENA

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3854

1	HALIK NG SERENA
2	EXIT WOUNDS
3	THE MEXICAN
4	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

1	
3	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA tel 733.4238

1	(DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
2		HALIK NG SERENA
3		THE MEXICAN
4		NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
5		X TREME WARRIOR

New Divisoria Mall CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	HALIK NG SERENA
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	MADERASO
4	EXTREME WARRIOR
5	EXIT WOUNDS
6	INIT SA DUGO

Baclaran LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1	(DOLBY)	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2		HALIK NG SERENA
3		EXIT WOUNDS
4		
5		

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1		HALIK NG SERENA
2		NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATES
3	(DTS)	EXIT WOUNDS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1		NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATES
2	(DTS)	SWEET NOVEMBER
3	(DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
4		HALIK NG SERENA

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1	(SDDS)	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2		HALIK NG SERENA
3		THE MEXICAN
4	(DTS)	EXIT WOUNDS

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1	(DOLBY)	HALIK NG SERENA
2		NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	(DTS)	EXIT WOUNDS
4		THE MEXICAN
5		SWEET NOVEMBER

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	EXIT WOUND
3	HALIK NG SERENA

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATES
2	EXIT WOUNDS
3	HALIK NG SERENA

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	THEY NEST
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	THE SEDUCER

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511 9736

1	EXIT WOUNDS
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	HALIK NG SERENA

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1	(DTS)	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	(DTS)	HALIK NG SERENA

Fourstep
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1	

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

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2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	MADERASO

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	ABAKADA...INA
3	SWEET NOVEMBER
4	EXIT WOUNDS

Berma
tel 879 2168

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	EXTREME WARRIOR

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

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3	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
4	TAONG X

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1	(DOLBY EX)	THE MEXICAN
2		NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3		ANTI-TRUST
4	(DTS EX)	3 000 MILES TO GRACELAND

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Internet film series debuts on BMW website

WOODCLIFF LAKE, New Jersey—An unprecedented Internet film series featuring an A-list roster of Hollywood heavyweights, made a debut on bmwfilms.com on April 26.

The series, dubbed "The Hire," is executive produced by David Fincher ("Fight Club," "The Game," "Seven"), and features directors such as John Frankenheimer ("Ronin," "Grand Prix," "The Manchurian Candidate"), Ang Lee (Oscar and Golden Globe winner "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," "Sense and Sensibility," "Eat Drink Man Woman"), Wong Kar-Wai ("In the Mood for Love," "Happy Together," "Chung King Express"), Guy Ritchie ("Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels," "Snatch") and Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu ("Amores Perros").

This was announced by BMW of North America, LLC and the Los Angeles-based Anonymous Content.

The films are being underwritten by MBW of North America, LLC and are produced by Anonymous Content, and will only be available via the Internet at bmwfilms.com.

"The Hire" features British acting sensation Clive Owen ("Croupier"), whose mysterious character the audience follows through various cryptic and dangerous situations.

Each film is brilliantly cast with strong supporting characters played by Mikey Rourke ("The Pledge"), Thomas Millan ("Traffic"), Adriana Lima (Victoria's Secret model) and Madonna (actress/recording artist).

"We are thrilled to have the participation of some of the finest directors, writers and actors involved in this new venture," said Steve Golin, chair of Anonymous.

"For its part as underwriter, BMW has always stood at the forefront of innovation and quality, and this entertainment film project continues that tradition. These films are going to shake up the industry."

"We aligned ourselves with this watershed venture because it is a synergistic effort that both crosses and pushes boundaries," said Tom Purves, president of BMW North America, LLC. "As such, it represents perfectly the spirit of BMW and BMW drivers."

"BMW is synonymous with thrills, excellence, and technological innovation," Purves added. "These entertainment-driven films, directed by the top talent in the field, are the perfect showcase to underscore the excitement and uniqueness of the BMW experience."

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7. RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT

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5. NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
6. RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT

BACOLOD (034)441-0453

1. THE NEST
2. DOUBLE TAKE
3. NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
4. THE MEXICAN
5. THE GIFT
6. ABAKADA...INA

DOLBY dts SDDS

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	HALIK NG SIRENA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	THE MEXICAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	EXIT WOUNDS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	SAY IT ISN'T SO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	RECESS SCHOOL'S OUT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	EXTREME WARRIORS
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	EXIT WOUNDS
MIRAMAR	VIRGIN WIFE/TOO MUCH FLESH
ODEON	EXIT WOUNDS
ODEON-2	EXTREME WARRIORS
ROBEN	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
TANDEM-1	ALIW MASARAP ANG LASON
TANDEM-2	EVANGELINE 14
TIMES	VERTICAL LIMIT / WHERE IS MY CAR
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	HALIK NG SIRENA
QUEZON-1	EXIT WOUNDS
REMAR	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
REMAR-2	EXIT WOUNDS
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	THE MEXICAN
CINEMA-2	GERMAN FILM FESTIVAL
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	EXTREME WARRIORS
CINEMA-2	ABAKADA...INA
CINEMA-3	HALIK NG SIRENA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	WOMAN ON TOP
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	SWEET NOVEMBER
CINEMA-6	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
CINEMA-7	INIT NG DUGO
CINEMA-8	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	EXIT WOUNDS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE MEXICAN
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
CINEMA-12	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
CINEMA-14	SAY IT ISN'T SO
CINEMA-15	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
LORES	
CINEMA-2	DI MATIGIL ANG INIT / HIYAS
CINEMA-3	MS. CONGENIALITY
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	DOUBLE TAKE
CINEMA-2	EXIT WOUNDS
CINEMA-3	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
CINEMA-4	SAY IT ISN'T SO
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CINEMA-6	THE MEXICAN

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10:40 PM - Exit Wounds

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LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Humor is powerful, persuasive

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

MITCH Valdes' new show, "Mitch-ing de Abanse," was slated to open last April 27, but it had to be postponed to this Friday and Saturday, May 4 and 5, still at the Music Museum.

The postponement was thought to be a prudent move to avoid any possible trouble emanating from that currently contentious corner of Edsa and Ortigas, which is close enough to the Music Museum area to give producers the heebie-jeebies.

Mitch herself would have gone on with the show, *contra mundum*. After all, she's old enough to know that, in these parts, political skirmishes and even revolutions wax and wane, but life (and humor) goes on.

In any case, everyone should be in for a hilarious time this weekend, since Mitch is one of our most perceptive and comically articulate social pundits, as loyal fans of her shows can attest.

Why the focus on politics this time around? There are the imminent elections, of course. On top of that, Mitch admits that she's always found politics, Pinoy-style, particularly spoof-worthy. Why?

"Because I've always been concerned about the people who run my life, because they affect the country I live in. – And because I am a control freak, I need to know that we're in good hands!

"Many are affected by the poor choices we make when it comes to voting for leaders. Even basic services aren't provided because corruption dissipates the money needed for them. So, I spoof politicians and elections to make people realize that they've been shortchanged.—Also, to remind them that they have rights that they must fight to uphold."

Why does she do all this through the medium of humor? "Because, I have to confess, *hindi ko naman kaya ang buhay makibaka. Gusto ko naman umuwi sa* condong *naka*-aircon. Besides, *ito ang alam kong gawin – sabi nila, dito ako magaling*, so I use humor," Mitch says.

"And humor is powerful, persuasive, make no mistake about that! It's powerful because people see that, not only do you entertain them, but you also address their own frailties. But you are allowed to do this only after you have addressed your own frailties first."

But Mitch hastens to point out that political and electoral spoofs take up only part of her shows. She also likes going to town on our common quirks, Pinoy-isms, as well as current events, characters in the news, etc.

And 50 percent of her shows is made up of music, another major strength of hers. "Even when I'm joking, I use music," Mitch explains.

She'll do some of her "classics" because people keep asking for them. But she has prepared new numbers and comical talking points. Here's a sneak preview: "Mitch-ing de Abanse" will feature a confrontation between a bold star and a mega-moralist—with Mitch playing both argumentative women!

See you at Mitch's show this weekend.

Limited edition

A LIMITED edition MTV VCD of the Backstreet Boys will soon be available with every purchase of the popular group's "Black & Blue" album. This "Secret Diary" VCD includes all MTV-original material of the Backstreet Boys, like exclusive footage of the boys performing on the roof deck of the MTV studios in New York, behind-the-scene interviews, shots from "MTV Fanatic," and some of the group's most popular music videos.

A special *a capella* version of "Shape of My Heart," which was the top selection on Billboard's Hot 100 singles chart, is also included in the special-edition package.

The Backstreet Boys have sold more than 55 million albums in only three years. Their fourth studio album, "Black & Blue," is the best-selling album in Asia, with 2.3 million copies sold since its release in November.

They were also the first artists in Soundscan history to have two consecutive albums ("Millennium" and "Black and Blue") to top one million units in sales on their respective debut weeks.

Why Regine doesn't have a cell phone

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

REGINE Velasquez's birthday concert was a rousing success. Regine always manages to outdo herself.

Days before her birthday, I got a chance to have a chat with Ms Songbird.

Dolly: I noticed your necklace reads Reine. Is that your new nickname?

Regine: No. It's because every time I have a concert, it rains. *Ewan ko nga ba.* Even when I was in LA, where it rarely rains, it suddenly rained when my show was about to start. Here, even when it's not rainy season, it doesn't fail to rain when I have a show. *Kaya ayoko nang mag*-outdoor show. *Maganda naman ang* voice *ko pero bakit kaya umuulan* when I have a show?

D: No wonder you revived the song "*Tuwing Umuulan at Kapiling Ka.*" Have you ever tried composing?

R: That's something I wish I had the talent for. I leave that to the composers. I'll stick to singing.

D: Do you think your upcoming movie with **Aga (Muhlach)** will surpass your movie with **Robin (Padilla)**?

R: I can't say. Robin's following is different from Aga's following. My movie with Aga is not a sequel to our first movie together. The new one is a bit more dramatic.

D: I heard your sis **Cacai** is preggy. Don't you have any plans of settling down, too?

R: I do, but there are no applicants yet. Of course, I also dream of having a family someday but it's not on my priority list right now.

D: When we were on "D-Day" earlier and the topic was handling anger, I remember you mentioned that you had a little tiff with your mom but it's been resolved. What happened?

R: I guess it happens to all moms and daughters. Sometimes, even when we're all grown up, our parents think we're still babies and that parents are right all the time. They forget that we have a mind of our own now.

What matters is we show them we can stand by our decisions.

D: I was asking for your number earlier and you told me you don't have a cellphone. To think that some of your songs are popular ring tones. In a way, that's good. You're not a slave to technology.

R: I think I'm the only artist who doesn't have a cellphone. I don't have the patience to use the keypad. I don't like the idea of being hounded wherever I go. I would rather talk over a quiet dinner than send text messages.

D: Do you have any idols or role models?

R: I have no particular favorite artist, though I listen to the radio a lot to be updated on the latest hits. I still keep on trying to perfect my own style. Sometimes I'm too hard on myself. I tend to expect too much. I'm a perfectionist when it comes to my performances. Just because my last show was a hit doesn't mean I should be complacent. I treat every song or show as if it were my first one so I give it my all.

Bits and pieces

IS trouble brewing in the **Anjo-Jackie Yllana** household? Nope! There's no third party involved. A reliable source told me that Jackie has been acting kinda bratty lately and Anjo does not find it amusing at all because he's too preoccupied with campaigning. Considering how young Jackie is, it's only normal that she's still childish in some ways. She's probably just trying to catch Anjo's attention since he's all wrapped up in his political concerns. Whether Anjo wins or loses in the May 14 elections, I'm sure the couple would not want to lose each other. It's just a phase they've got to face.

Gretchen Barreto was all aglow when she was a pinch-hitter for **Dina Bonnevie** on "D-Day," where I happened to be a guest last week. Off-cam, I told Gretch she should go back to TV. She beamed and said, "How I wish I could, but I can't. I'll be dead meat if I did. Obvious *ba* that I really miss hosting a show *kaya* super *daldal ako.* But of course my priorities are different now. There are always trade-offs in life." Her eyes light up when she talks about her *unica hija*. "She's so *kikay* but so unlike me. It's going to be her birthday soon."

Gretch is not as visible as she used to be. Knowing she's busy being happy ought to make her fans and friends happy, too.

Love is blind

AFTER I wrote the scoop here about **Vandolph Quizon**'s lovechild, I've been bombarded from all corners. Funny thing is, the girl's family has not heard from Vandolph's side yet. Guess their plea for Vandolph to sign the child's birth certificate has fallen on deaf ears. Oh well . . . love is indeed blind, but should it also be deaf to the cries of an innocent baby who asks for nothing except due recognition? How sad that sometimes you have to fight for something which is naturally yours in the first place.

For feedback, e-mail *wateringhole2000@yahoo.com*

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SAY IT ISN'T SO - P 13 1:10, 3:35, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50	NARINIG MO BA ANG LATEST - P13 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:45	THE MEXICAN - P 13 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

GAZINE
Pristine
19
Indulge

BOLDEST PICTORIAL

Check out FHM Philippines' April issue, where 24-year-old pop princess Geneva Cruz bares herself in her boldest pictorial so far. "It was a stunning metamorphosis," Geneva exclaimed. "Thanks to the cutting-edge ideas of the mag's think-tank, we came out with some really classic shots, something that I never thought I'd do before."

FHM Philippines, published by Summit Publishing, is the leading men's magazine which caters to such guy-oriented topics as sex, sports, women, gadgets, money, etc. Cast your vote for the world's sexiest woman at www.fhm.com.ph until May 31.

CARLOS GOES 'WACKY'

Teen idol Carlos Agassi (right) recently signed up as one of the contract celebrity models of Wacky Clothing Studio. The budding rap star and mainstay of the Sunday noontime show, "Asap," is shown with Lyndon Angan, national director for marketing of Wacky. Other stars who will endorse the clothing apparel are "Tabing Ilog" mainstays Baron Geisler, Desiree del Valle and Kaye Abad, with actress LJ Moreno, protégé of talent manager Douglas Quijano.

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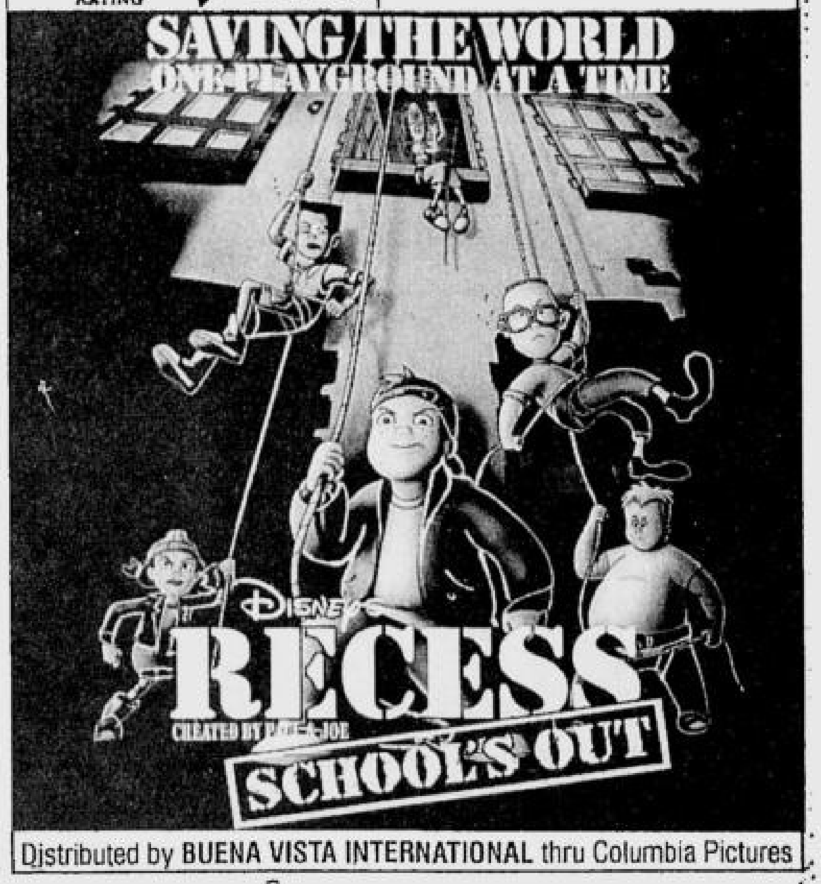

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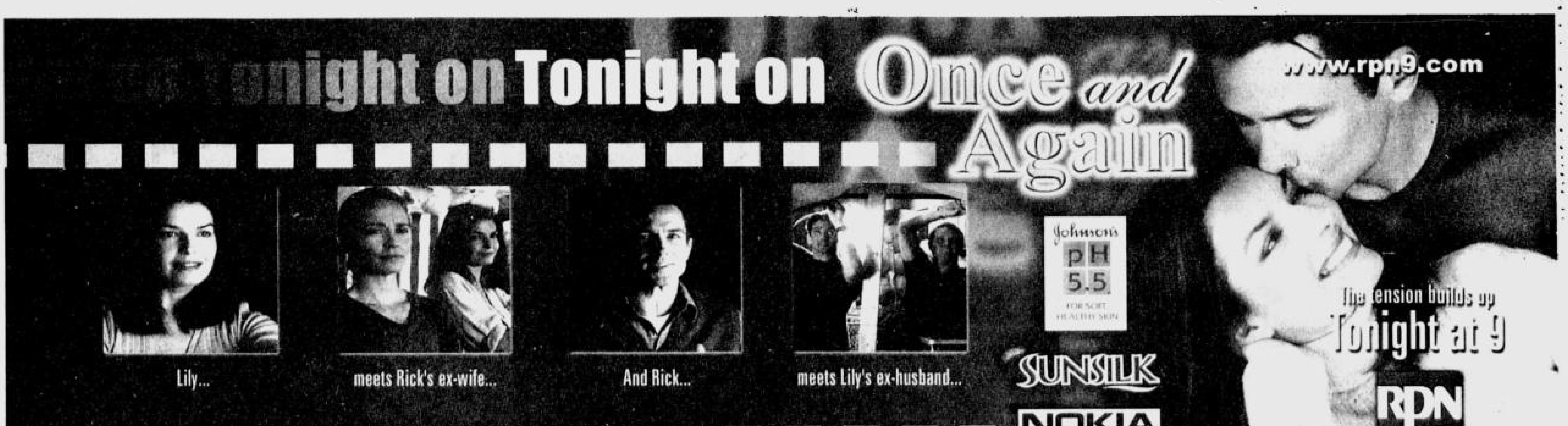

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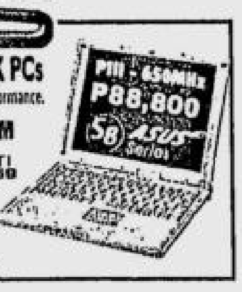

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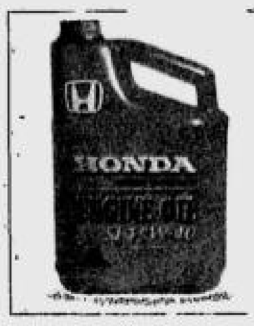

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Cojuangco fate hangs as SMC owners meet

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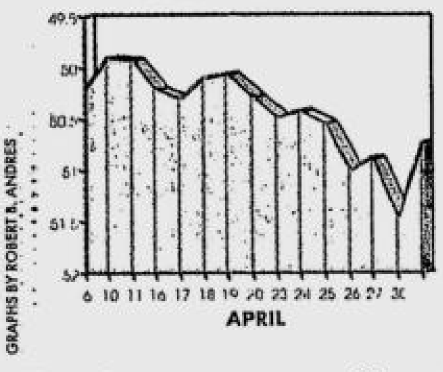

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The US dollar was trading at 121.88 as of 5 p.m., May 2, 2001

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Banks report profit gains

METROPOLITAN Bank and Trust Co., the country's largest bank, said yesterday it posted a net income of ₱402.16 million in the first three months of the year.

The bank said it recorded an interest income of P7.73 billion in the

BANKS/ B2

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE SHOWDOWN between the Macapagal administration and businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. finally comes to the fore as stockholders of San Miguel Corp. gather today to elect new directors for the food and beverage giant.

At issue is whether or not the government can muster enough proxies to take eight seats in the 15-member SMC board, a crucial block that will determine the fate of Cojuangco, who currently sits as chair.

But there is also the possibility that the meeting may not push through.

While the Mandaluyong regional trial court has junked a petition by state pension fund Government Service Insurance System to stop the stockholders' meeting, the Supreme Court has yet to decide on a government petition to stop the nomination of five Estrada directors.

GSIS has likewise filed before the Court of Appeals an urgent motion to stop today's scheduled stockholders' meeting.

The government remains hopeful that the Supreme Court will issue today a temporary restraining order to bar SMC from nominating and re-appointing five pro-Estrada directors and at the same time allow the Macapagal government to appoint its own nominees.

Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo said the high court had a scheduled en banc meeting yesterday and the San Miguel issue is expected to be part of the agenda.

"We hope the Supreme Court would issue a temporary restraining order not on the stockholders' meeting itself but even only on the nomination of five Erap's nominees," Marcelo said in a phone interview.

Marcelo said the high court was expected to release its decision yesterday afternoon but as of press time, the Supreme Court has yet to issue an order.

"We hope the court would set aside the Jan. 20 deadline imposed by the company. We need to appoint the five government directors so we could scrutinize the transactions that San Miguel had agreed to enter into given that the government remains its largest stockholder," Marcelo said.

Included in the SMC deals being questioned by the Macapagal administration is the $1.1-billion buyback of Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc. from Australia's Coca-Cola Amatil, the planned P7-billion acquisition of Purefoods Corp., and a P700 million assumption of loans of its joint venture partner Campofrio Alimentacion SA.

"We're hoping the Supreme Court would issue the decision today in time for the stockholders' meeting," said PCGG information officer Nick Suarez. "For the sake of national interest we hope the President's appointees could sit on the board now."

But sources from the Court of Appeals said the court would issue a temporary restraining order against the stockholders' meeting as petitioned by the GSIS.

PCGG acting chair Jorge Sarmiento said they were "hoping" that the Court of Appeals would indeed grant the GSIS petition and issue a TRO so the PCGG could buy time to install the five appointees of the Macapagal administration.

Still, Cojuangco remained confident that SMC stockholders will recognize his management team's performance in voting for a new set of directors.

"Based on their (government's) press release, they have enough votes but we also feel that we have it, so we'll just see," Cojuangco said.

What is important, he said, was for the company's by-laws to be followed. The company's by-laws set the deadline for the nomination of directors on Jan. 20, 2001.

COJUANGCO/ B2

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BINONDO
Federal Tower Bldg.,
Dasmariñas St.
243-0128 · 244-8913

ALABANG
Citibank-Frabelle Bldg.,
Alabang-Zapote Rd.
842-1389 · 842-4181

CEBU
Keppel Centre, Cebu City
032-2340851 · 032-2340853

Svenson INTERNATIONAL
YOUR CHOICE NOT TO BE BALD

GSIS asks central bank chief to explain 'unethical' conduct

By Elena R. Torrijos

STATE-CONTROLLED Government Service Insurance System yesterday demanded that Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas governor Rafael Buenaventura explain his "unethical" behavior in interfering in the internal management of Equitable PCI Bank.

In a press conference after walking out of the bank's special board meeting yesterday to discuss who would continue to manage the bank, GSIS president Winston Garcia disclosed that, as testified to by two senior executives of the bank, Equitable chair Antonio Go had admitted that his family was being pressured by Buenaventura to appoint former Solidbank Corp. president Deogracias Vistan as president and chief executive of Equitable.

Garcia also claimed that about four weeks ago Buenaventura "scared away" a local potential investor and existing stockholder of Equitable from investing P5 billion into the bank during a meeting at Manila Golf.

Garcia declined to identify the potential investor but he seemed to have been referring to Equitable director Ricardo Leong, whose Sycamore Ventures submitted a proposal to invest in the bank.

As of press time, Vistan has not yet been appointed president and CEO but Garcia said that majority of the bank's board had already decided to do so.

The BSP, which earlier provided Equitable with liquidity assistance, had insisted that it would only restructure the funds it extended to the bank if new management was put in place.

"I see the unbecoming hand of the CB governor in the internal management of the bank. I don't know why and I think he has a lot of explaining to do," Garcia said.

Garcia said that Buenaventura's interference was "harming" Equitable as well as the entire banking industry.

Meanwhile, Equitable acting president and chief executive Edilberto Javier and executive vice president Romualdo Dy Tang yesterday resigned from the bank.

Garcia said he expected "mass resignations" to follow.

Javier testified to the fact that the bank chair admitted that the family's move to support Vistan's appointment was only because of pressure from the BSP governor. Javier's testimony was corroborated by Dy Tang.

Garcia said: "I just cannot stand the rush to appoint the president of the bank without giving me prior consultation. Give me a chance to assess, let us have at least three choices (for bank president)."

The GSIS chief said he would not put in any money into the bank as long as Go remained as chair since the latter had no word of honor.

In a letter explaining the reason for his resignation, Javier disclosed that earlier, Go, as well as other members of the Go family, gave him a commitment to confirm full support for him in order to effectively manage the bank. However, the Go family recently backtracked on its support because of the pressure allegedly from Buenaventura.

"Having been part of the management team that has brought Equitable to its pre-eminent position in Philippine banking today, I find no consolation in Mr. Go's insistence that he was pressured by Mr. Rafael Buenaventura, the governor of the BSP, to appoint Mr. Vistan," he said.

Javier also noted that the BSP's pronouncements that there was a need for Equitable to have a change in management was, to say the least, "implicit indictments of the present management team's competence and are directly counterproductive to the bank's recovery efforts."

STOCK traders react at the Philippine Stock Exchange. Shares rose sharply in early trade as investors welcomed moves by the government to decisively quell an attack on the presidential palace on Tuesday. REUTERS

AGI posts 85.6% jump in profit

FOOD and beverage conglomerate Alliance Global Group Inc. (AGI) posted a 156-percent growth in total revenues, along with impressive gains in net income, stockholders' equity and total assets in end-2000.

AGI told the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) its revenues surged to P1.33 billion last year from P517.6 million in 1999.

The company also raised its net income by 85.6 percent to P498.8 million last year from P268.8 million a year earlier. Stockholders' equity increased to P4 billion from P2.4 billion and total assets to P4.1 billion from P2.8 billion, up by 67 and 46 percent, respectively.

Alliance Global corporate information officer Dina Inting said AGI's subsidiaries McKester Pik-Nik International Ltd. and Anglo-Watsons Glass Inc. contributed significantly to the conglomerate's strong financial performance last year.

"The company's consistent growth performance in the last few years bolsters its bid to transform itself from a purely Philippine-based food and beverage concern into a full-fledged, globally competitive regional player in the next few years," Inting said.

AGI's acquisition of US-based holding firm McKester Pik-Nik International through subsidiary Alliance Growers Holdings Inc. has strengthened the company's interests and assets in the food and beverage business, the main focus of the holding company and a substantial contributor to its revenues, Inting said.

Since it became a holding company in 1999, Alliance Global has embarked on an aggressive expansion program focused on the food and beverage industry as a main area for investments. It had earlier announced that it was projecting P5 billion for capital expenditures in the next two years.

Benpres posts 83% profit drop

By Elena R. Torrijos

BENPRES Holdings Corp., the publicly listed flagship holding company of the Lopez family, yesterday reported that profits last year plunged 83 percent to P368 million from P2.2 billion the year before.

In a statement, Benpres said the steep depreciation of the peso against the dollar last year and higher interest rates triggered financial troubles in its debt-laden units, BayanTel and Maynilad Water.

BayanTel, saddled with a $480-million debt load and a net loss of P3.29 billion last year, is seeking to restructure its foreign obligation and scouting for a strategic partner.

Maynilad Water, which has more than $700 million in debts, failed to close a $350-million financing after talks with government broke down on the implementation of an automatic currency rate adjustment in the water company's rates.

The combined impact of these factors pushed up Benpres' expenses by 12 percent year-on-year to P9.53 billion, thus leading to the 83-percent decline in profit last year.

Benpres also said that revenues dropped last year by 36 percent to P3.867 billion on the back of a lower divestment gain of P2.07 billion compared to P3.975 billion recorded the previous year.

Benpres' investments in broadcasting and power posted respectable profit growths despite the bearish economic condition in 2000.

ABS-CBN posted a 13-percent growth in net income to P2.26 billion from an 18-percent increase in revenue to P9.24 billion.

SkyCable maintained its market leadership in the TV cable industry nationwide while Rockwell Land completed its shopping center in Makati.

At the same time, FPHC registered robust earnings as its consolidated net income nearly doubled to P1.1 billion from P697 million in 1999.

Benpres is currently working on its new-economy strategy with the recent formation of a new group, eLopez, which was formed to lead the initiatives in information technology.

Unilever taps HK firm for RP distribution center

ANGLO-DUTCH consumer products giant Unilever has tapped the Li & Fung Group, a Hong Kong-based trader and retailer, to put up a new central distribution center in the Philippines to handle the multinational corporation's expanded product portfolio.

Li & Fung's Philippine subsidiary, JDH Philippines, will spend P400 million for the construction of a warehousing and physical distribution facility to make the products of Unilever Philippines and Unilever Best Foods available nationwide.

JDH already has an extensive distribution network in the country, with four distribution hubs in Metro Manila, Cebu, Visayas and Mindanao.

Unilever Philippines chair Howard D. Belton said the project was part of the group's global strategy to build a world-class supply chain.

The company needs to beef up its distribution capacity to handle its broadened product portfolio following the merger with Best Foods.

Best Foods' local subsidiary, California Marketing Corp., currently distributes Best Foods, Knorr, Ladies Choice and Royal food products. These will boost Unilever's brand line-up, which includes Surf, Sunsilk, Creamsilk, Lux, Vaseline, Ponds and Lifebuoy.

Cojuangco fate hangs as SMC owners meet

(From page B1)

Some analysts expect it to be an uphill climb for government as it challenges the solid performance credited to the Cojuangco management for the past three years with SMC's recurring net income of P7.51 billion in 2000, P6.02 billion in 1999, and P3.31 billion in 1998 for a 20 percent annual growth rate.

They noted that the profit growth significantly came from the turnaround in international operations from a loss of about a $40 million in 1998 to an operating income of $3.8 million in 2000, significant cost savings from corporate reengineering, and contributions from new business acquisitions like Wilkins, Sugarland and J. Boag & Son.

Some government nominees have also downplayed reports that the Macapagal administration was out to oust Cojuangco.

In an interview yesterday, GSIS president Winston Garcia said the government should be allowed to vote on the PCGG-held shares.

"We haven't even decided whether to vote to retain Cojuangco or not. Our concern is to be allowed to put our nominees," he said.

He noted that it would be "anomalous" for the PCGG nominees appointed during the Estrada regime to be allowed to represent the Macapagal administration.

"We could not have submitted our nominees then (Jan. 20) because Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo came into power only after then. These are special circumstances," he said.

Aside from the five PCGG nominees, the GSIS wants to get additional board representation. Aside from Garcia, the agency will nominate its executive vice president, Robert Malonzo.

The five PCGG nominees of the Macapagal administration are former Social Security System administrator Renato Valencia; banker Octavio Espiritu; former Presidential Security Group commander Leo Alvez, Hector Hofillena and Francis Fuentebella.

These are the people the PCGG wants to replace the Estrada directors: Raul de Guzman (Estrada's brother-in-law), Alan Lopez Lee, Benjamin Paulino, Hermogenes Tantoco and Espiridion Laxa. The five were the names submitted by SMC to the Securities and Exchange Commission before the Jan. 20 deadline for nomination of directors.

Completing the Cojuangco line-up are Cojuangco himself, Ramon Ang, Manuel Cojuangco, Estelito Mendoza, Gabriel Villareal and Faustino Galang.

Banks report . . .

(From page B1)

period and a net interest income of P2.21 billion. The bank did not give comparative figures.

Metrobank advanced P2 to close at P213.

Security Bank Corp. also reported yesterday its net income for the first three months of the year reached P127.13 million.

The bank said its interest income amounted to P1.69 billion while its net interest income was at P625.98 million for the period.

The bank did not give comparative figures.

Security Bank finished P1.50 lower at P19 on Wednesday.

Union Bank of the Philippines also said yesterday its net income for the first three months of 2001 was at P222.51 million.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Union Bank said its total revenues for the period totalled P1.18 billion. The disclosure did not give comparative figures.

The bank added it set up provisions for probable losses of P60 million for the three-month period. *Reuters*

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Wednesday, May 2, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	25,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	75.5	79.5	75.5	79	573,000
China Banking Corp.	650	650	650	650	220
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	43	44	43	44	64,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	213	214	212	213	119,940
Philippine National Bank	43	44	43	44	14,000
Security Bank Corp.	18	19.5	18	19	254,700
Union Bank of the Phil.	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	5,500
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1255	1255	1255	1255	3,070
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	25,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	960	960	960	960	680
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	37.5	39	37.5	39	7,400
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	280,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	695	695	690	690	5,290
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	10,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	690	705	690	700	164,550
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.038	0.043	0.038	0.043	298,400,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	42	42	41	42	59,000
Manila Electric Co. B	52.5	54	52.5	53	2,331,700
Petron Corp.	1.64	1.76	1.64	1.66	6,451,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	50,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.16	1.3	1.16	1.3	4,096,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.35	0.37	0.35	0.37	110,000
Union Cement Corp.	1	1.04	1	1.04	220,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.02	2.02	2.02	2.02	300,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.75	13.5	13.75	202,600
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	30	30.5	30	30.5	413,200
RFM Corp.	0.98	1.06	0.98	1.02	3,780,000
San Miguel Corp. A	44.5	45	44	45	18,900
San Miguel Corp. B	48.5	50.5	48.5	49	521,500
Universal Robina Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,005,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.61	0.64	0.61	0.64	40,000
Ayala Corp.	7.5	7.8	7.5	7.7	12,747,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.16	1.22	1.16	1.22	2,070,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11.75	12.25	11.75	12.25	7,300
A. Soriano Corp.	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.29	450,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.006	0.006	5,000,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	50,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	100
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.36	1.44	1.36	1.44	6,416,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.32	540,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.36	0.38	0.36	0.37	1,150,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	20,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1	1.04	1	1.04	140,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	22.75	23.5	22.75	23.25	85,400
Global Equities Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	100,000
Ionics Inc.	13	13.5	13	13.5	33,500
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.84	1.92	1.84	1.88	3,637,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.72	0.78	0.72	0.78	4,840,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.45	0.47	0.45	0.47	1,080,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.47	0.54	0.47	0.54	1,070,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.28	0.29	0.27	0.27	90,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.26	0.27	1,280,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Active Alliance Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	20,000
Music Corp.	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.55	620,000
Pryce Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	300,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	10,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	13.25	14	13.25	14	123,700
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.42	0.48	0.42	0.48	5,410,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.48	0.48	4,480,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.51	0.51	0.5	0.5	450,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	37.5	40	37.5	39	1,475,500
Equitable PCI Bank-War	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	20,000
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	695	710	695	710	27,810
Jollibee Warrants	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	12,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	3,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.5	5.7	5.5	5.6	11,917,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	300,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.32	2,200,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.34	2,220,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	11,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.92	2.08	1.92	2.06	8,524,000
SM Development Corp.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	260,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.9	7.1	6.9	7	8,517,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	500,000
MINING					
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	700,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	1,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0055	0.006	0.0055	0.006	4,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.004	0.004	0.0038	0.0038	5,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	630,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	500,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.022	0.022	0.02	0.021	6,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0042	0.0044	0.0042	0.0044	2,000,000
Pacifica	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	3,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,086,110	83,454,230.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	375,322,450	536,365,200.00
PRO	34,449,000	145,213,100.00
Mining	11,830,000	293,900.00
OIL	11,000,000	174,600.00
GRAND TOTALS :	433,687,560	765,501,030.00

AVERAGES

Banks & Fin Svc	616.21	UP 18.05
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,951.71	UP 81.42
PRO	572.34	UP 18.10
Mining	1,160.81	UP 22.20
OIL	1.46	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	738.41	UP 11:19
Composite	1,435.88	UP 57.04

NO. OF ADVANCES: 59; NO. OF DECLINES: 11; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 17; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 87; NO. OF TRADES: 3,152

CURRENCIES

2-May-01

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.118693	1.000000	51.3390
Japan	Yen	0.009172	0.008199	0.4209
United Kingdom	Pound	1.605996	1.435600	73.7023
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.143450	0.128230	6.5832
Switzerland	Franc	0.648443	0.579643	29.7583
Canada	Dollar	0.730552	0.653040	33.5264
Singapore	Dollar	0.617380	0.551876	28.3328
Australia	Dollar	0.578824	0.517411	26.5634
Bahrain	Dinar	2.967514	2.652661	136.1850
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.298311	0.266660	13.6901
Brunei	Dollar	0.613487	0.548396	28.1541
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000101	0.000090	0.0046
Thailand	Baht	0.024533	0.021930	1.1259
UAE	Dirham	0.304613	0.272294	13.9793
Korea	Won	0.000850	0.000760	0.0390
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.893900	45.8919
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.457044	23.4642
France	Franc	0.152450	0.136274	6.9962
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.405634	20.8248
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.064962	3.3351
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022159	1.1376
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000462	0.0237
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.150343	7.7185
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004459	0.2289
Spain	Peseta	0.007128	0.006372	0.3271
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.022159	1.1376
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.135019	58.2707

People, Events & Products

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Scholarships, financial assistance from APC

A TOP information technology school offers scholarships and financial assistance for deserving students.

Paulino Y. Tan, president of Asia Pacific College, an educational partnership of Shoemart (SM) Foundation and IBM Philippines, said the school can now accommodate more students and complete their courses in a leading institution producing IT professionals attuned to the needs of the country.

APC has several scholarship programs ranging from grants that shoulder 25 percent of the student's total tuition to those that offer full-subsidy plus stipends.

The SM Foundation Scholarship offers scholarships to graduates of public high schools. APC and AM Foundation grant 100-percent subsidies on tuition and other fees, plus a P2,000 stipend per term for each scholar.

Requirements are total NSAT scores in Math and Science of at least 80 percent and above and a weighted average grade of at least 85 percent upon graduation, and total income of family members in the same household of less than P100,000 per year.

APC's Public School Scholarship grants unlimited number of qualified high school graduates an 80-percent subsidy on tuition and other fees.

The Academic Scholarships, also offered by APC, grants subsidies of tuition and other fees to high school students who graduate with honors, according to the following scheme; valedictorian, 75 percent; salutatorian, 50 percent; top 10 percent of the graduating class, 25 percent.

The Financing Scholarship provides subsidy on tuition and other fees to students depending on their financial capacity. A 60-percent tuition subsidy is granted to those whose family's total annual income is less than P250,000; 50 percent to those whose family's annual income is between P250,000 and P500,000; 25 percent to those whose family's annual income is between P500,000 and P1,000,000.

For the Dean's Scholarship, students who have a school year CGPA of 90 percent and above at the end of each school year automatically enjoy a 60-percent subsidy of total tuition and other fees for the following school year. APC is at no. 3 Humabon Place, Magallanes, 1232 Makati City, 852-9232/852-9670.

DLSU-Manila grabs two Anvils

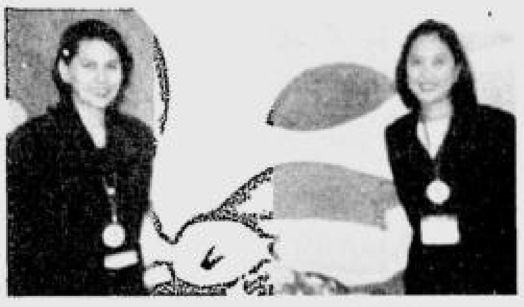
DE LA SALLE University-Manila won two Anvil Awards– one for Excellence for its admissions poster titled "Future Perfect" and another for Merit for the President's Report of the DLSU System for school year 1999-2000. The awarding was held recently at the Hotel Intercontinental in Makati City.

The DLSU Admissions Poster is part of a long-term communication program developed after market research revealed that high school students put much importance on a university's alumni as an indicator of quality education. With the help of this poster, the marketing communication program was able to generate a market increase in the school enrolment during an economic slump.

Using the tagline "Future Perfect," the admissions poster featured some of the most successful La Salle alumni– prominent figures from both government and business sectors. The poster was distributed to different high schools to give prospective college applicants an idea that La Salle helped shape the careers of these successful people.

PR coordinator Reby Gaw pointed out that "a successful campaign material can reach the target audience only when you listen to what they want to read and hear, and generally take care of what they need. The market research definitely gives us the power to reach them."

Besting several entries from the business industry, La Salle's winning President Report titled "Rediscovery" was cited alongside the entries of companies such as the Ayala Group and Union Bank.



TOURISM FORUM DELEGATE

Waterfront Cebu City Hotel and Waterfront Airport Hotel were among the Philippine travel industry delegates to the Asean Tourism Forum 2001 held recently at the Brunei Convention Center in Brunei Darussalam. Shown at the Waterfront Group booth are Teng Hildawa (left), director of marketing, Waterfront Hotels & Resorts Philippines, and Shella Lacsa, director of sales, Waterfront Airport Hotel.

Lawyer is lord chancellor

LAWYER Manuel D. Yngson Jr., managing partner of the Manuel Yngson and Associates Law Office, was recently inducted as lord chancellor for the alumni of the Alpha Phi Beta Fraternity of the University of the Philippines College of Law.

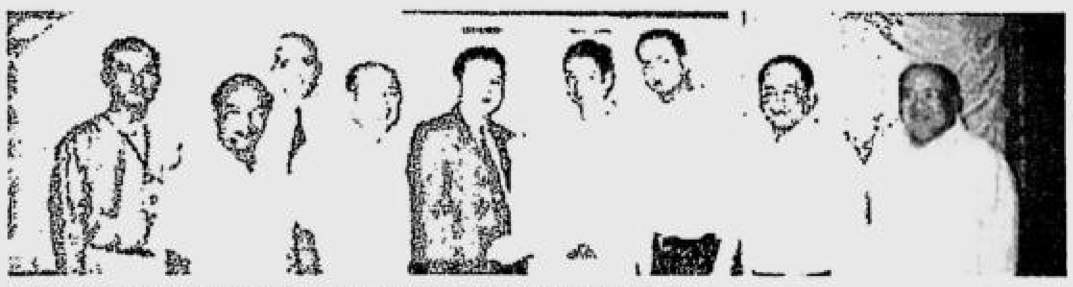
Armand Racho Talbo was sworn in as lord chancellor for resident members.

Other alumni officers inducted were Ramon S. Esguerra, vice chancellor-internal affairs; Anthony T. Dogillo, vice chancellor-external affairs, Noel A. Laman, vice chancellor-finance; Purisimo S. Buyco, secretary general; Benjamin T. Bacorro, auditor general;

Manuel F. Abad, Jesus G Bersamira, Jose B. Castigador Jr. Wildredo M. Chato, Arnold V. Guerrero, George I. Howard, Claro P. Ison, Edcel C. Lagman, Dante V Liban, Hesiquio Mallillin, Raul T. Pagtalunan, Benjamin L Palomique Jr. Pablito M. Roxas, Jorge V. Sarmiento, Jude S. Sudario and Henry Villarica, trustees

1ST NEC INTER-OFFICE 9 BALL CHALLENGE

Employees of NEC, Helsinki and May Blossom participated in the 9 Ball Billiard Tournament held Aprill 22, 2001 at Entertainment World. The Tournament, headed by C. Enriquez, was successfully conducted through the cooperation of Helsinki Tours & Transport, May Blossom Car Rental, Inc. and Daniel's Tacos and Nachos. Champion of the event was E. Elecerio of NEC Phil., W. Bautista of May Blossom (2nd placer), M. Malabanan of NMPO (third) & W. Linganay of Helsinki (fourth). Organizers extend their special thanks to Col. Eduardo Limjuco of Helsinki, and Malou Guasque of May Blossom Car Rental Inc..



MIASCOR GROUND HANDLING ISO CERTIFIED

Miascor Ground Handling, a Swissport Partner, was certified ISO 9002 recently. Miascor is a member of the IATA Ground Handling Council. Shown in photo (from left) is Constante G. Almuete, quality manager; Pedro M. Martires Jr., general manager; Manfred Spycher, general manager; Juan C. Paraiso III, president; Reyland B. Nepomoceno, TÜV representative; Edgardo C. Manda, MIAA general manager; Jose Ricardo Delgado, CHI-chief investment officer; Ramon S. Monzon, CHI-COO; Jovino G Lorenzo, CHI-vice chair

AYALA HEALTH HONORS TOP ACHIEVERS

Ayala Health Care, Inc., the Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) arm of the Ayala Insurance Companies, recently honored its Top Achievers and Solo Qualifiers for 2000 during a special awarding and fellowship night at the Oasis Hotel in Angeles City, Pampanga. A total of 41 achievers, some of whom were given recognition that evening, were led by top health care sales consultant Francisco Salazar II (fifth from left, first row). The affair is a culmination of Ayala Health Care's business development program as it aims to make quality health insurance services more accessible to a vast majority of Filipinos.

Control excess oil this summer

BATHING in the sun is usually a welcome idea. It's nice to lounge on the beach and soak under the rays. But not if your skin is so oily that your forehead and cheeks shine as brightly as the sun.

The skin is the largest organ of the body and in it are thousands of oil glands distributed over the face, chest and back. These glands help lubricate the skin by producing sebum, or oil. The face alone has as many as 2,000 oil glands per square inch. This is the reason most oil is seen on the face. However, oily skin is often linked to acne. It is believed that oil and bacteria trapped beneath the skin's pores cause pimples. Thus, it is important to control excess oil to cure acne.

Acne-Aid Cleansing Bar provides gentle yet thorough cleansing by disintegrating fats into small pieces through sulfonated surfactants to completely wash away excess oils without leaving residue. It is hypoallergenic and free of perfume and abrasives – so it is safe to use on most types of skin.

Acne-Aid is a product of Stiefel – a world-renowned dermatological company with 153 years of dermatological research. With skin care as its focus, Stiefel's mission is to achieve and maintain an unsurpassed knowledge in skin biology by providing preventive and therapeutic dermatological products of premium quality.

In the country, Stiefel Philippines, Inc. continues to forge its commitment to skin by offering global quality products to Filipinos.

A dream getaway and a golfer's paradise

A SCENIC 90-minute drive from the busy metropolis will bring you to one of nature's most beautiful landscape. Only 90 km from Manila, Holiday Inn Resort Clark Field (HIRCF) offers both an irresistible dream vacation and golf on the resort's splendid greens.

While basking in the luxurious comforts of HIRCF, take advantage of ample tees, fairways and shimmering lakes on the CDC Golf & Country Club (formerly Mimosa) and have a heyday on the greens.

Your weekdays on the greens (Mondays to Fridays) include a round of golf (18 holes) at the CDC Golf & Country Club, an overnight stay in a standard room, twin sharing at the HIRCF, and breakfast buffet only at P3,260 net per person. Meanwhile, weekends and public holidays cost P4,110 net per person with the same inclusions. First Choice Club members get special rates, too.

Catch these great value golf packages and experience a vacation like no other. For inquiries and reservations, call 845-1888.

BAYANIHAN 10 NEW MEMBERS

Bayanihan 10, a business program, provides a 'lifetime income' opportunity through its unique system wherein all the members shall enjoy 'financial security' and avail products and services for free. The program was conceived to 'create entrepreneurs for a lifetime' by way of organizing a captive market of customer-members towards the ultimate goal of improving the quality of life of every Filipino family. Bayanihan 10's business opportunity meeting (BOM) held at Edsa Shangri-La Hotel was a tremendous success. Photo shows the newly appointed members and satellite managers with Bayanihan 10 officers and Olivia L. Bradley (sixth from left) president and CEO, who once said that Bayanihan 10's profound commitment jives with the saying, "Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day, teach him how to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime."

FUSE RECEIVES BOOK ON RP-CHINA TIES

Dr. Lucio C. Tan, (fourth from left), vice chair of the Foundation for Upgrading the Standard of Education (FUSE) and president of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (FFCCCII) turns over to Fuse president Salvador H. Escudero III a copy of 'Ugnayan ng Lahi.' The book commemorates 25 years of Philippine-China diplomatic relations. Published by the Department of Foreign Affairs, with assistance from FFCCCII, the coffee table book was given to FUSE in the presence of (from left) former PRC chair Hermogenes Pobre; expert animator and FUSE guest speaker Midge Manlapig; FFCCCII secretary general Jose Ngaw; CHED commissioner Dr. Mona Valisno; Dr. Jaime Laya of NCCA; and Nieves Lim, former VP-finance, Mapua Institue of Technology.

FUN RUN LAUNCHES ICE TEE

Employees of Sugarland Beverage Corporation (SBC) recently worked up a sweat and braved the heat of the summer sun for their annual fun run. The fun run was held in honor of SBC's newest accomplishment, the launching of Magnolia Ice Tee, which is set to become a formidable brand in the powdered iced tea segment based on the positive response from the initial consumer surveys and taste tests conducted by SBC. Dubbed as the Magnolia Ice Tee Summer Fun Run, this year's event started from the CCP Complex and ended at the Luneta grounds. After this invigorating exercise, SBC employees were treated to a hearty breakfast at the nearby Seafood Wharf. Photo shows the management and sales force of SBC.

'True Classic Houseware Sale' and bridal registry at true value

TWO events mark the month of May at True Value: their "True Classic Houseware Sale" at all 6 True Value stores and the opening of a bridal registry section at True Value Rockwell.

The "True Classic Houseware Sale" are on items such as kitchen and cookware, bathroom accessories, storage containers, mats, lamps and other home decorative items. These items also complement the opening of the bridal section and the celebration of Mother's Day in May.

At the Shangri-La Edsa Plaza Mall branch, True Value is currently located at the fifth floor of the mall to continue serving the public while renovations at the sixth floor are ongoing to give the 1,200-sqm store a snazzier look. The sixth floor store is expected to open the third quarter of this year.

True Value is a home center that is a trusted resource for do-it yourselfers. Its branches are located at Park Square 1 in Makati, Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall in Cainta, Alabang Town Center in Muntinlupa, Ayala Center in Cebu, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, and its flagship store with Lifestyle Learning Center at Rockwell's Power Plant Mall in Makati.

BITS Clips

UPLSAAI homecoming

THE UP Library Science Alumni Association, Inc. will hold its 51st alumni homecoming and general business meeting on Saturday, May 5, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the UPAA Hostel and Services, Inc., R. Magsaysay Avenue (back of University Theater), UP Campus, Diliman, Quezon City. For particulars call Utchie Cayabyab at 896-9801 local 241, Vicky Mercado at 521-3166 local 196 and Susie Manhit at 733-3726 and 733-3640.

SAA annual alumni homecoming

ST. AGNES Academy (SAA), Legazpi City, annual homecoming is set for Sunday, May 6. The Silver Jubilarians this year are the Batch '76 who will host the affair. Next year's homecoming to be hosted by High School Batch 1977 and Elementary Batch 1973 will coincide with SAA's 90th anniversary. In preparation for the homecoming on May 5, 2002, graduates of St. Agnes Academy Elementary Batch '73 and High School Batch '77. are enjoined to get in touch with any of the following: Lindy Salazar-Zantua (480-1355 or 820-2874), Agnes Alta (0919-2022310), Tessa Nieves-Romano (487-5834 or 487-7237), or Paulino Gonzales (0917-4530284) for those in Legazpi. For those in Manila, call Susan Lorenzo-Delotavo (927-3641), Criselda Navarro-Gasmen (913-2571), Francia Brondial (454-2061), Helen Grace Saluna (932-0875), Pinky Segovia-Maldo (821-0461) or Cesar Villalon, Jr. (897-7877 or 897-6990).

White Rock activities for May

WHITE Rock beach resort has added a lot of new and diverse amenities. Plus, White Rock has cooked up events for May. On May 5, Saturday, canoe and kayaking competitions will take place. Individual and group competitions are the given categories. On the same day, a bikini fashion show will give the chance for everyone to show his or her stuff. These events are made possible by Smart Communications and Universal Motors Corp., and Magnolia Ice Tee, Nutri-licious, Bacardi Breezer, Destiny Cable, Swift Mighty Meaty Hotdogs, Blue Bay Tuna, Avon Color, Lipovitan, Coca-Cola, and Magic 89.9 DWTM.

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Republic of the Philippines
MANILA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
Ninoy Aquino International Airport, Metro Manila

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFICATION/ELIGIBILITY AND BIDDING

The Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) invites interested bidders to submit Application for Prequalification or Eligibility and subsequently to bid, if qualified for the hereunder projects:

1. Name of Project
   A. Thermoplastic Repainting of Runway 13/31
   B. Verification of Operational Restriction and Renewal of Pavement Markings at NAIA Terminal 1 (ICT and IPT Aprons)
2. Contract Budget
   A. PhP 2,749,553.93
   B. PhP 4,206,624.37
3. Minimum Equipment/Appliance Requirement (for either project)
   2 Units Truck mounted kneading machines
   2 Units 10cm. Hand-pushed type applicators
   2 Units 30cm. Hand-pushed type applicators
   2 Units 45cm. Hand-pushed type applicators
   1 Unit Mechanical Paint Removing Machines
   1 Unit Vacuum Sweeper (leased or owned)
4. Experience Requirement (for either project):
   a. Applicant must possess at least two (2) years experience in thermoplastic marking application for airport runways, taxiways and aprons
   b. Applicant must have an over-all experience of at least five (5) years in thermoplastic marking technology and industry.
   c. Product must bear ISO Certification for Quality

Forms for application for Prequalification/Eligibility may be secured from the Office of the Assistant General Manager for Operations 2nd Floor, MIAA Administration Building, NAIA Metro Manila from May 4-11, 2001 upon presentation of letter of intent. Deadline for the submission of duly accomplished Prequalification/Eligibility Form shall be on May 18, 2001.

Official Bid Documents will be issued only to pre-qualified contractors upon payment of a non-refundable amount of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (PhP 1,500.00) for each project. The time and date for the submission and opening of bids, pre-bid conference/s and other affairs concerning the project shall be announced and confirmed in the Notice of Prequalification and Bid Bulletins.

The MIAA reserves the right to reject any or all bids duly received, waive any minor defect in the proposals, accept the offer that will be evaluated to be the most advantageous to the Authority nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) BIENVENIDO O. MANGA
Chairman, PBAC-I

(PDI--May 3 & 7, 2001)

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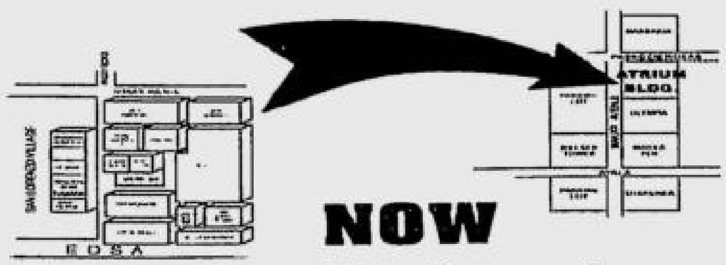
LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate & deposit accounts of the late Mariano E. Villalobos were extrajudicially settled by his heirs as per Doc.No. 2; Page No. 2; Book II; Series of 2001 before Notary Public Rodolfo A. Mabutas of Calaca, Batangas.
PDI-May 3, 10 & 17, 2001

Inquirer's Makati Branch



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2ND INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

All corporations registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and with extensive experience in the supply and installation of Shower Enclosures and Lighting Fixtures for office buildings are invited to apply for pre-qualification and to bid for the following Contract Packages for the new LBP HQ Building in Ermita, Manila, with the following schedule.

Project Title	Estimated Cost	Issuance of Pre-C	Issuance of Notice of Prequalification/ Predisqualification	Issuance of Bid Docs	Pre-Bid Conference	Bidding Date
Contract Package No. 25 Supply and Installation of Shower Enclosure	Php 5.5 Million	May 7 to 9, 2001 10:00 A.M. to 2:30 P.M.	May 24, 2001	May 25, 2001 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.	May 29, 2001 9:00 A.M.	June 14, 2001 9:00 A.M.
Contract Package No. 33 Supply and Installation of Elevator Lobby Lighting, Teller Counter Lighting and Wall Scounge Lighting Fixtures	Php .9 Million	May 7 to 9, 2001 10:00 A.M. to 2:30 P.M.	May 24, 2001	May 25, 2001 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.	May 29, 2001 11:00 A.M.	June 14, 2001 11:00 A.M.

All interested suppliers/installers may obtain Pre-C application forms from the Project Management Engineering Department (PMED), 2F LBP Bldg. 3, 315 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City, upon payment of a non-refundable processing fee of P1,000.00.

Duly accomplished Pre-qualification Statement (Pre-C) shall be submitted to the above-stated office not later than 5:00 PM, May 16, 2001, after which no Pre-C will be accepted. All participating suppliers/installers shall be notified in writing of their pre-qualification/ or pre-disqualification.

Only pre-qualified suppliers/installers may secure Bid Documents at the PMED Office upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P 1,000.00.

Pre-bid conference will be held at the FMGSG Conference Room, 2nd Flr., LBP Building 3, 319 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City.

Bidding shall be conducted at the same venue as the Pre-bid conference using the two (2) sealed envelopes system (envelopes "A & B") to be submitted at the said date and time, after which no envelopes will be received.

LBP reserves the right to change the date of issuance of bid documents, pre-bid conference, submission of bids and the bidding date. Due notice of changes shall however be communicated by LBP to pre-qualified bidders.

LBP likewise reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss that they may incur in the preparation of their bid, and to accept the bid most advantageous to the Bank.

(Sgd.) GILDA E. PICO
Chairman
LBP Sub-Committee on the LBP HQ Plaza

(PDI--May 3, 4 & 5, 2001)

Republika ng Pilipinas
Pambansang Korporasyon Sa Elektrisidad
(NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION)

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

AD NO. PD 2001-24

Bidding Date : May 22, 2001 - 10.00 a.m.

2001-24-01	ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS (Integrated Circuit, Translator, Diode, Rectifier, etc.)
2001-24-02	MOTOR, Submersible for Deepwell, 25 HP, 230 volts, three phase, 60 Hz-3450 RPM/PUMP, Centrifugal for Water Filter of Swimming Pool, 1.5 HP, 230 v, 60 Hz 83 GPM, Size: 1 1/2 " x 1 1/2, single phase
2001-24-03	ENGINE ASSEMBLY, Surplus, 4D56, 4 cylinder
2001-24-04	REGULATOR, Nitrous Oxide for Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer PN BS 303-0349
2001-24-05	COMPUTER, Notebook/COMPUTER PRIPHRALS (Hard Disk, etc.)
2001-24-06	SERVICES Repair of Laptop Computer
2001-24-07	PHOTOGRAPHIC SUPPLIES (Blank Tape, Album, Fluim, Battery Pack)
2001-24-08	PAPER, Refractory, Size 3.175 mm x 1 000 mm x 1000 mm
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2001-24-11	SERVICES. Job Order for Gear Cutting of Internal Gear - 14 Teeth

Interested parties are invited to prequalify and to submit sealed bids on the above to be opened publicly at the Sampaguita Rm. Ground Floor, Bldg. 2, NPC-OBC, Quezon Ave. cor. Agham Rd. Diliman, Quezon City

Accreditation forms can be obtained from Mondays thru Fridays at the Accreditation and Bidding Support Services, Materials Management Department, Ground Floor, Bldg. 2 upon payment of P50.00, submission of company's TIN and proof of listing at the telephone directory. **Deadline for submission of duly accomplished forms to participate in this bidding is on May 11, 2001

Bidding documents available on May 4, 2001 upon payment of P50.00 which is non-refundable, presentation of original Certificate of Accreditation and supplier's number (DCE). **Last day of issuance of bidding documents May 17, 2001

Issuance of accreditation forms and bidding documents mornings only, 8:30 to 11:30 AM. For inquiries, please call no. 921-2574

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
NPC-OBC (Head Office)
Diliman, Quezon City

(PDI - May 3 & 4, 2001)

INQUIRER TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Brainy bird?

Q. How did the owl become a symbol of wisdom?

A. The owl figures extensively in the legends and folklore of virtually all peoples and it has been regarded as the symbol of wisdom since the dawn of history. Its nocturnal habits, its noiseless flight, its mournful call, and its large, stationary eyes have all contributed in making the bird an object of awe and superstition. Among the Greeks the owl became the symbol of meditation and counsel because it was one of the attributes of Pallas Athena, the goddess of wisdom.

Ooops! The choice of the owl as a symbol of wisdom is not actually up to scratch. Compared to many other birds, the owl is slow-witted and rather stupid.

Classified Odd. In July 1992 a group of soldiers in the Indian Ocean nation of Madagascar decided to mount a coup against the government, so they grabbed their weapons and seized the government-run radio station. The government's response: They totally ignored the coup. Guards let the rebels walk in and the army stayed in its barracks. One rebel leader declared himself leader and broadcast threats and charges against the government for a few hours. When all the commotion didn't produce a response from anyone, the rebels just packed up and slinked away.

WORD WATCH

Imbierna : slang for "irritated, upset, peeved," from the Spanish *envenenar*, "to put a bad interpretation on someone's words or actions" or "to poison."

PDI–May 3, 2001

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way,
the
truth
and
the
life.
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one
comes
to
the
Father
except
through
Me.
John 14:6

CONSOLACION "INDAY" F. IPANAG

Retired Employee, Air Transportation Office (CAA)

20 April 1924 - 30 April 2001

Her bereaved husband, **Dominador Adag Ipanag**
Her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren

Bobby (†) and **Marina**
  Jane, Dong and **Ily Gamad**
  Mary Ann, Michael, Em-Em and **Mica Gavino**
Arlene (†)
Alan and **Vi**
  Liza, Rico, Justin and **Jericho Rojas**
Freddie and **Mila**
  Pamela Mae and **Nathan**
Paul
Dean and **Rose**
  Kisses, Hugs, Embrace and **Touch**
Nadine and **Rod Must**

Her sisters, **Gloria Awiten** and **Puring** (†), other relatives and friends deeply mourn her passing and request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul. Her body lies in state at the family residence, 2415 Osmeña Street, Poblacion, Makati City.

Interment will be on Sunday, 06 May 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque, after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at the Sts. Peter-Paul Parish Church, P. Burgos Street, Makati City.

"Come to Me, all you who are weary
and burdened, and I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:28

LEONARDO B. ENCINARES, SR. "NARDING"

Died in the grace of our Lord on April 28, 2001 at the age of 48.

His loving wife **Gloria**; children **Glenda, Veronica** and **Leonardo Jr.** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence at 2844 Uruguay Street, Brgy. San Isidro, Makati City.

Interment will be on Sunday, May 6, 2001 at 9:00 a.m. at the Makati Municipal Cemetery.

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COL. RODRIGO M. PULUMBARIT

Peacefully returned to God, the Lord he loved and served faithfully on May 1, 2001 at the age of 57.

We, his family and all his other relatives and friends, request those whose lives he has touched and all pious readers to pray for the repose of his soul as he is born into eternal life.

His remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on May 6, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the 10:00 a.m. Mass and necrological services at Arlington Memorial Chapels.

ELISA PALISOC vda. LONTOK

of Quiapo, Manila / Baliuag, Bulacan

Peacefully joined her Creator on April 30, 2001 at the age of 82.

Her only son **Atty. Edward P. Lontok** and wife **Eugenia G. Lontok**; grandchildren **Jerome, Josine, Jerold** and **Joanne** request the readers to pray for the repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Solace I Room, Arlington Memorial Chapel, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, May 5, 2001 at the Municipal Cemetery of Baliuag, Bulacan after 1:30 p.m. Mass, at Sto. Cristo Chapel.

"My Shepherd is the Lord
There is nothing I shall want
Through verdant pastures He leads me...
My cup is overflowing"

Our Dearly Beloved Mother

Evelina Vda. de Teves

Peacefully joined our Lord on May 1, 2001 at the age of 80.

Her loving husband **Senator Lorenzo G. Teves** (†)

Children **Louie, Don & Dada, Bing & Tata**
Francy & Ding Pascual, Mercy & Ned Goni (†)
Celia, Betsy & Mighty David, Ady & Jean Teves

Grandchildren **Shireen, Tanya & Donald,**
Mardee & Chum, Margot, Don-Don, Tiffy
Ten-Ten & Miko, Vince, Jed, Eva Marie & Nico,
Luigi, Andoni, Gisela & Ian, Cid & Nigel

Great grandchildren **Aris, A.K., Justin, Cheska & Nedine**

Sister & Brothers **Teresing, Oso** (†), **Nonoy** (†)

Brothers & Sisters in law, relatives & friends

The family request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Interment will be on May 5, 2001 after the 2:00 p.m. Necrological Mass at Immaculate Conception Church, Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental.

Today, we remember
Our Beloved

JOHN-JOHN E. OBUSAN "JAY²"

on his First Death Anniversary
November 27, 1972 - May 3, 2000

Colegio de San Agustin High School Class 1990
Dasmariñas Village, Makati City
UST A.B. Behavioral Science Class 1996
Former APL Philippines Subic and Mariveles Branch Manager

Masses will be offered today in his memory at the following churches:

Santuario de San Antonio Church Forbes Park, Makati City	6:15 a.m.
Saint Peter Parish Church Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City	6:00 a.m.
Parish of St. John the Baptist Daet, Camarines Norte	6:00 a.m.
Christ the King Parish Church Filinvest II, Batasan Hills, Quezon City	7:00 p.m.
Sn. Roque SBMA Chapel Dewey Avenue, Subic Bay International Freeport, Olongapo City	12:15 p.m.
Parish of the Holy Rosary Makinabang, Baliuag, Bulacan	6:30 a.m.

To all who blessed him with love, prayer and friendship, and in the end stood by us to ease the pain... Thank you and may God bless you as richly as we have been blessed by you.

*From: His loving parents **Nonong & Naty**, sister **Judith Fatima** and devoted friend **Fe-Ann**.*

Jose Ibarra Gadaoni Gonzales Sr.

86 years old of Looc, Romblon

His wife **Rosario Oliver Gonzales**; children **Jose Ibarra Jr., Cynthia Rosario** and **Stella Ruth.**

His body lies in state at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 1232 Sta. Maria Street, Tondo, Manila.

His remains will be cremated on May 5, 2001.

PATRICIO TARADEL PINDOY

March 17, 1942 - April 30, 2001

His loving wife **Rebecca**; children **Trixia** and **Jerome**; parents **Francisco Sr.**, and **Filomena**; sisters and brothers **Jean** and **Andrew Duncan, Norma** and **Roland Maag, Linda** and **Nito Mercado, Ronnie** (†), **Jun** and **Cheryl, Jojo** and **Ellen**; nieces and nephews, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at St. Peter Memorial Chapels 296 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on May 5, 2001 at the Eternal Garden Memorial Park, Balintawak, Caloocan City, after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

DRA. LETTY M. OCA

peacefully joined our Lord on May 1, 2001 at the age of 81.

Her loving husband **DR. AGRIPINO R. OCA**; children **DENNIS, ARTURO CECILE** and **DITAS, EDWIN** (†) and **MARIZON, GWEN** and **JANAK**; grandchildren **JOHN CYRIL, ART, PRATIMA, ARJUN** and **SABRINA**; brothers and sisters **YOYONG** (†) and **RAQUEL** (†), **PEDRING** (†), **FANNY** (†) and **RUBEN** (†), **JOSE** (†) and **PACING**, and **PAKING**; nephews and nieces, relatives and friends mourn her passing and wish for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at St. Alphonsus De Ligouri (Magallanes) Parish Center (Chapel 4), Makati City.

Interment will be announced later.

"You will forever be in our hearts Mommy"

Prof. EVALINDA ALEJANDRO-GAMBOA

Math Department CAS, UE

who passed away in the Grace of the Lord on May 1, 2001.

Her loving husband **Engr. Salvador M. Gamboa Jr.**; children **Tina, Cecilia** and **Ace Raymond**; grandchild **Jonathan**; her brothers **Ibet** and **Peping**; and sister **Zeny**; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Loyola Viewing Chapel I, Marikina City.

She will be laid to rest on Friday, May 4, 2001 at 11:00 a.m. at Sto. Rosario Memorial Park, Taytay, Rizal.

Gov't 'disheartened' by US downgrade of IPR status

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE MACAPAGAL administration is disheartened by Washington's decision to lower the country's status as one of the world's hotbeds of pirated movies, music and books in the world.

This was revealed by Philippine Intellectual Property Office Director General Emma Francisco, who questioned the timing of the United States' decision to downgrade the Philippines' status from its ordinary to priority watch list of the world's violators of intellectual property rights.

Francisco said the US Trade Representative's decision to bow to the demands of the International Intellectual Property Alliance, an influential lobby group of seven trade associations composed of 1,450 US copyright-based companies, had placed the Philippines in a bad light well-ahead of its scheduled appearance in a World Trade Organization hearing on the country's compliance to the Trade Related Agreement of Intellectual Property Rights.

The Philippines was upgraded from the USTR's priority to ordinary watch list in 1997. This was after the country enacted its intellectual property rights law and tightened enforcement of the law.

The upgrade indicated an improvement in the country's enforcement of laws against CD piracy and other acts of intellectual property rights violations.

Francisco said the USTR's downgrade, announced on April 30, demoralized government employees in charge of enforcing intellectual property rights as all their efforts to clamp down on bootleggers over the past few years had been overlooked.

"We have done our best and made some headway despite a limited budget," Francisco said. "If we had their (US government's) resources, we can meet their demands."

Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II kept up a brave front despite the setback.

"I am confident that this will not result to unilateral trade sanctions from the US. Any sanction the US may impose has been de facto ruled illegal by the WTO, but this does not, in any way, diminish the unfairness of our being elevated to the priority watch list."

The government earlier warned that the International Intellectual Property Alliance's push to picture the Philippines as a flourishing haven for software, movie, music and book pirates would imperil the country's status as a preferred exporter to the United States.

The Philippines is worried that the US government may be compelled to withdraw the $821 million in annual benefits to the Philippines arising from its export privileges under the Generalized System of Preferences.

The Department of Trade and Industry has charged the lobby group of exaggerating the losses of American software makers, publishers, movie and music producers from bootleggers in the Philippines. It claimed that its members lost $51 million from software piracy and $140 million from copyright piracy in 1999.

Roxas said the group "narrowly assumed" a one-to-one ratio between computer sales and software sales, and the same ratio between student population and textbook sales that he described as "overly simplistic methodology."

Producers seek 80% tariff on sugar imports

By Christine A. Gaylican

FOUR large sugar producers group yesterday asked the government to raise tariffs on imported sugar from 65 to 80 percent to save the local industry from being overrun by cheap imports.

The Confederation of Sugar Producers, National Federation of Sugarcane Planters, Panay Federation of Sugarcane Farmers, and United Sugar Producers Federation of the Philippines are calling for government support to the local sugar industry, which they claim has been neglected historically.

Confederation of Sugar Producers national president Bernardo Trebol said in a statement that the government should impose higher import tariffs to protect the sugar industry, which had been suffering from the entry of low-priced sugar from abroad.

He said the higher tariffs would lessen smuggling of cheap sugar imports and help planters recover from low domestic sugar prices.

The four sugar producers groups are set to submit a proposal on the rehabilitation of the sugar industry to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The Sugar Regulatory Authority, however, said the government could not easily increase tariffs due to its commitments to the Asean Free Trade Area and World Trade Organization.

SRA chief James Christopher Ledesma said should the government decide to increase tariffs on sugar, it would have to lower tariffs on another sector, which would ultimately affect the consuming public.

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MEGALINK

US Fed sees modest US pickup in economy

SAN FRANCISCO—A prolonged slump in business investment or a cutback in consumer spending poses the greatest risks to a US economic rebound later this year, an official at the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco said.

Jack Beebe, the top economist at the San Francisco Fed after bank president Robert Parry, said he was concerned that with the official US savings rate still negative, the economy slowing and layoffs mounting, Americans might start to sock away more cash in savings accounts.

Though saving money is not a bad thing, it could depress consumer spending, which accounts for two-thirds of all US economic activity and hold back a recovery.

"I think the big risk is will the capital spending lull get drawn out, and the second risk is will consumer spending continue to go along in this environment with such a low savings rate?" Beebe told Reuters in an interview.

The Fed has aggressively cut the benchmark overnight bank lending or federal funds rate by two percentage points since the beginning of the year in the face of a sharp deceleration in economic growth. The slowdown had been felt mainly in manufacturing and business spending on capital goods.

Beebe, senior vice president and director of research at the Fed bank which oversees the western United States, is one of the senior staff members permitted to sit in on Washington meetings of the Fed's policy-setting body, the Federal Open Market Committee.

Beebe said the Fed's surprise rate cut two weeks ago was motivated more by a feeling that the level of interest rates was not appropriate for the degree of economic weakness than by any specific new information on the slowdown.

"It was not done out of urgency. I think that the federal funds rate just seemed a bit high for the current economic environment," he said of the April 18 decision to cut rates between scheduled meetings. The funds rate was lowered by half a point to 4.5 percent.

A few months ago, Fed officials were confidently predicting a quick rebound in growth in the second half of the year. But San Francisco Fed President Parry told reporters last week: "The turnaround probably has been delayed somewhat."

Beebe said he currently expects a small acceleration in growth later this year with inflation holding steady.

"Our staff forecast is for growth of 2.25-2.5 percent in the second half. Rebound is a pretty strong word for that," he said. "It hinges on a modest pickup in capital spending and consumer spending at about 2.25 percent. That is a pretty modest pickup."

Last week, the government estimated gross domestic product grew at a 2-percent annual rate in the January-March period, a slow pace but stronger than what markets had expected.

Beebe said one of the concerns uppermost in his mind regarding the economic outlook is the strength of consumer spending in the second half of the year.

"As a staff we have been looking at this" in preparation for the next FOMC meeting on May 15, he said.

"The calculated saving rate is still negative. If people try to cut back on spending in order to get their income and spending more in balance to raise this saving rate, then you could get a slower second half coming from the consumer."

US incomes rose faster than spending for the second straight month in March, government data on Monday showed.

The US personal savings rate, which has plummeted over the past decade, remained negative in March at -0.8 percent. But economists say this data may underestimate actual savings due to technicalities such as how capital gains are measured.

Consumer spending, while weaker over the past year, has actually been a stabilizing force in the economy throughout the slowdown, according to Beebe.

Reuters

Japan no longer East Asia's economic engine

TOKYO—Japan recognizes it is no longer the economic engine driving the rest of East Asia in a forthcoming economy and trade white paper, according to a news report.

"East Asian nations have entered a period of tough competition and view the sharp growth of the Chinese economy as a new threat to Japan," the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry document says, according to the Yomiuri Shimbun daily.

The white paper, due to be published on May 18, also stresses the need for new Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi to carry out his promised program of structural reforms.

"The white paper issues a warning on Japan's delay in structural reform," Yomiuri said. "It also proposes a strategy of utilizing the growing power of East Asian countries to resuscitate the Japanese economy."

The government Wednesday declined to comment on the Yomiuri report or the white paper itself.

"The white paper is scheduled for official release on 18th. We cannot say anything about it until then," a ministry official told *AFP*.

The white paper highlights China's "miraculous economic growth," in major industries such as the textile industry and in hi-tech fields, the Yomiuri said.

"Thanks to far more foreign capital flowing into China than into Japan, China has been realizing surprising economic growth," the government report states.

Japan's share of foreign investments in the rest of East Asia dropped from 25 percent in 1990 to less than 10 percent in 1999, according to the Meti document, the Yomiuri said.

AFP

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MEGALINK

Forester launched, shows its stuff in driving stunts

BY AIDA SEVILLA-MENDOZA

TO PROVE it is the country's first Sports Safety Vehicle (SSV), the Subaru Forester was launched last week at Fort Bonifacio by GM Automobiles Philippines (GMPh) with driving stunts performed by veteran race driver Pocholo Ramirez and his son George.

In the wet surface test, where the pavement of a cordoned-off outdoor parking lot was flooded with shampoo and water, the Forester easily spurted ahead of a Volvo 850 estate wagon without aquaplaning, slipping or sliding. The Volvo did not aquaplane, either, but had to proceed more slowly.

In the log hurdle test, whereby the Forester and a Honda CR-V were driven one after the other over seven logs ranging from 10 to 15 cm high and placed 12 inches apart, the Forester successfully hurdled all the logs. The CR-V stalled at the fourth log, its front wheels spinning, and had to be pushed by three people to continue its way over the remaining logs.

The tug-o-car test again displayed the superior traction of the Forester's all-wheel-drive (AWD) technology. A Forester and the Volvo were parked back-to-back and a rope was tied to the rear towing hooks of the two cars, after which the drivers of both cars drove forward slowly in opposite directions to make the rope tight. At the count of three, each driver stepped on the gas pedal to see which car had a stronger grip on the road and would end up pulling the other. In a few seconds, the Forester was seen pulling the bigger, heavier Volvo 850 wagon. After the maneuvers demonstrated by the Ramirezes, the audience consisting of motoring journalists, GM Autoworld dealers and other guests were invited to subject the Forester to the same tests. They gamely took up the challenge with the three Forester units on hand and in each trial, the Forester passed with flying colors.

THE COUNTRY'S first sports safety vehicle

In a presentation preceding the stunt show, Harold Koh, president and general manager of GMPh, said that what sets the Subaru Forester apart in the compact sport-utility vehicle class is its all-wheel-drive (AWD) and horizontally opposed engine. The horizontally opposed engine, which makes the vehicle light and stable, plus the AWD system provide the outstanding balance that is the basis for the superior driving performance of Subaru cars. Subaru introduced the first passenger car with AWD in 1972 and was the World Rally Championship (WRC) winner for three consecutive years (1995-1997).

GM claims that the horizontally opposed engine also provides passengers more safety in case of a frontal crash as its lower center of gravity forces the engine below the cabin. In case of an offset collision, the ring-shaped reinforcement frames in the body, side impact beams, steering support beam and 3-point seatbelts for all seats ensure unequaled rigidity and added passenger protection. Other safety features standard on the Forester are dual front airbags and ABS (antilock braking system).

The Forester's 2.0-liter, 16-valve SOHC horizontally opposed engine with multipoint fuel injection produces 125 horsepower at 5,600 rpm and max torque of 184 Nm/3,600 rpm. GMPh claims an economical average fuel consumption of 9.7 liters per 100 kilometers in city driving and reduced exhaust emissions.

All-power features (windows, sideview mirrors and door locks with keyless entry) are standard, ditto front captain seats with armrests, 60:40 fold-down rear seat, map reading lights, center console box, cargo area light, cup holders, retractable cargo cover, 12-volt cargo area power outlet, roof rail, side cladding and Alpine radio with single in-dash CD player.

The Forester's launch is the result of the alliance forged last year by GM and Fuji Heavy Industries (FHI), makers of Subaru cars, when GM took a 20 percent equity stake in FHI. As part of the alliance, GM Auto World, GMPh's retail and service network, will distribute completely built-up (CBU) Subaru cars beginning with the Forester.

The introductory price of the manual transmission Forester is P1.188 million and P1.238 million for the automatic transmission model. These prices will soon go up by P30,000 each, GMPh said.

Two pickups

DURING the first week of April, I drove, one after the other, a 2001 Isuzu Fuego Sport 4x4 and a 2001 Ford Ranger Trekker XLT 4x2. And for a good reason: to transport heavy cargo from one point of Metro Manila to another on two different days. But this does not mean that I'll be comparing the Fuego 4x4 with the Trekker, for that would be like comparing apples and oranges.

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

2001 FUEGO SPORT 4X4. This handsome, muscular pickup is unmistakably a man's truck despite its posh leather-and-wood interior and its new vertical grille resembling the Nissan Cefiro's—or the Mitsubishi Strada's. The top-of-the-line 2001 Fuego Sport 4x4 (price: P971,000) has a 2.8-liter, 4-cylinder, in-line OHV direct injection turbocharged diesel engine capable of 100 ps of horsepower at 3,800 rpm and max torque of 225 Nm at 2,300 rpm. It also has snazzy new mags and bigger feet: 245/75 R16, to be exact.

The Fuego's excellent engine power and dependability can hardly be questioned, given Isuzu's leadership in diesel engine technology. To avail of all that turbocharged power, however, you have to step hard on the accelerator pedal and shift the long-throw gear shifter with more than average physical effort and precision. But what the heck? As I said, this is a man's truck. To check the Fuego Sport's riding comfort when the cargo box is empty, I took the back seat during a drive to Tagaytay and back. Like most other pickups, the Fuego's rigid live axle with semi-elliptical leaf springs rear suspension provides a bouncy ride. A day earlier, with the cargo box loaded with luggage, furniture, potted plants and other heavy stuff, I had driven it from Alabang to Mandaluyong and back to test the Fuego's cargo-carrying performance. It aced the test and on the second trip, I let my son-in-law do the driving while I sat in the back to try out the Fuego Sport's riding comfort with the cargo box full. It wasn't carlike, but neither was it similar to riding a bucking horse. Surprisingly, on the drive to Tagaytay and back with the cargo box empty, the ride was only a wee bit bouncier.

The Fuego Sport's pleasing amenities contribute to its driving comfort. Aside from wood paneling and two-tone leather seats, leather side trim, leather steering wheel and gearshift knobs, a stereo tuner/cassette player (what, no CD?) with six speakers and remote control, keyless entry and alarm and driver's side assist grip are standard. Outside, the Fuego Sport's tough but elegant look is enhanced by a front bumper overrider with fog lamps, overfenders, side stepboards and full body cladding.

2001 FORD RANGER TREKKER XLT 4X2. This vehicle's mission was to transport three passengers plus driver (me), two fully packed balikbayan boxes, two big, overstuffed suitcases and two pieces of hand-carried baggage to the Naia by 4 a.m. Since the Trekker has the highest payload capacity (1,240 kg) in the 4x2 compact pickup class, the mission was easily accomplished.

Ford Group Philippines has been upgrading the Ranger annually ever since it launched this best-selling (in the United States) compact pickup in Manila in August 1999 as a CBU from Thailand. In April 2000, Ford launched the locally assembled CKD Ranger, including the bright yellow, fully loaded Ranger SVT 4x4 Pinatubo Edition. Last March, Ford introduced two new Ranger variants, both diesel 4x2s: the 2.9-liter XLT and the Trekker 2.5-liter Turbo Diesel XLT.

Aside from having the highest payload capacity, the Trekker is said to be the fastest pickup in its class because of its 2.5 liter turbo intercooled diesel engine rated at 117 ps of horsepower at 3,500 rpm and max torque at 280 Nm at 2,000 rpm. This fastest-in-its-class claim was easily tested and verified on the Skyway.

The Trekker is light and pleasant to drive. For a diesel, it has low noise, vibration and harshness levels. On top of all this, it is a mighty attractive, sporty-looking pickup. Its increased ride height and ground clearance, new 15-inch alloy wheels and 235/75 R15 tires give it the swagger and stance of a 4x4. At P755,000, doesn't this Ford truck look like a good buy?

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: Body by Nautilus, brain by Mattel.

* * *

E-mail comments to aida_sevilla@pacific.net.ph.

Again…

(From page B7)

at the bar and drinking wine, or imprison yourself at the jacuzzi reading a book while sipping your favorite mix. Or, simply snooze the hours away in the heights of cool Tagaytay.

Next time around, I won't miss it. Promise.

* * *

Do you know that Danny Isla of Toyota is a Beatlemaniac? Like me, Vernon Sarne must be very glad, too. You see, all three of us are Beatlemaniacs.

The mug I use at home to drink (water, of course), is a Beatles mug. Direct from New York, courtesy of Vernon.

The Beatles #1 album, which contains the Beatles' 27 No. 1 hits, came from Vince Socco, the brilliant Toyota executive now based in Singapore. Vince, the main cog in the Toyota triumvirate known as RAV-3 (R is for Raymond Rodriguez and A is for Ariel de Jesus), also gave Vernon a copy of that album.

Last week, I received a copy of The Rolling Stone mag issue featuring the Beatles on the cover. It's a collector's item. And I cannot thank Danny enough for giving me that.

It made the birthday bash complete.

* * *

Here's good news for owners of the 2001 Ford Expedition.

The new model has joined the growing list of Ford vehicles that have earned a 5-Star front crash test rating from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of the United States.

The Expedition was able to earn the top rating because of additional enhancements to its restraint system. Its safety belt system is equipped with technologies called pretensioners and energy management retractors. Pretensioners are special devices located in the retractors of the front-seat safety belts. They tighten the belts and help prevent belted occupants from sliding around during a crash.

Peace of mind, the Ford experts call it, whenever you doze off while being a passenger of the 2001 Ford Expedition.

* * *

The latest from Skyway:

Hopefully, there will be additional toll lanes at the Skyway Toll Plaza for northbound traffic that will be opened before the end of the year.

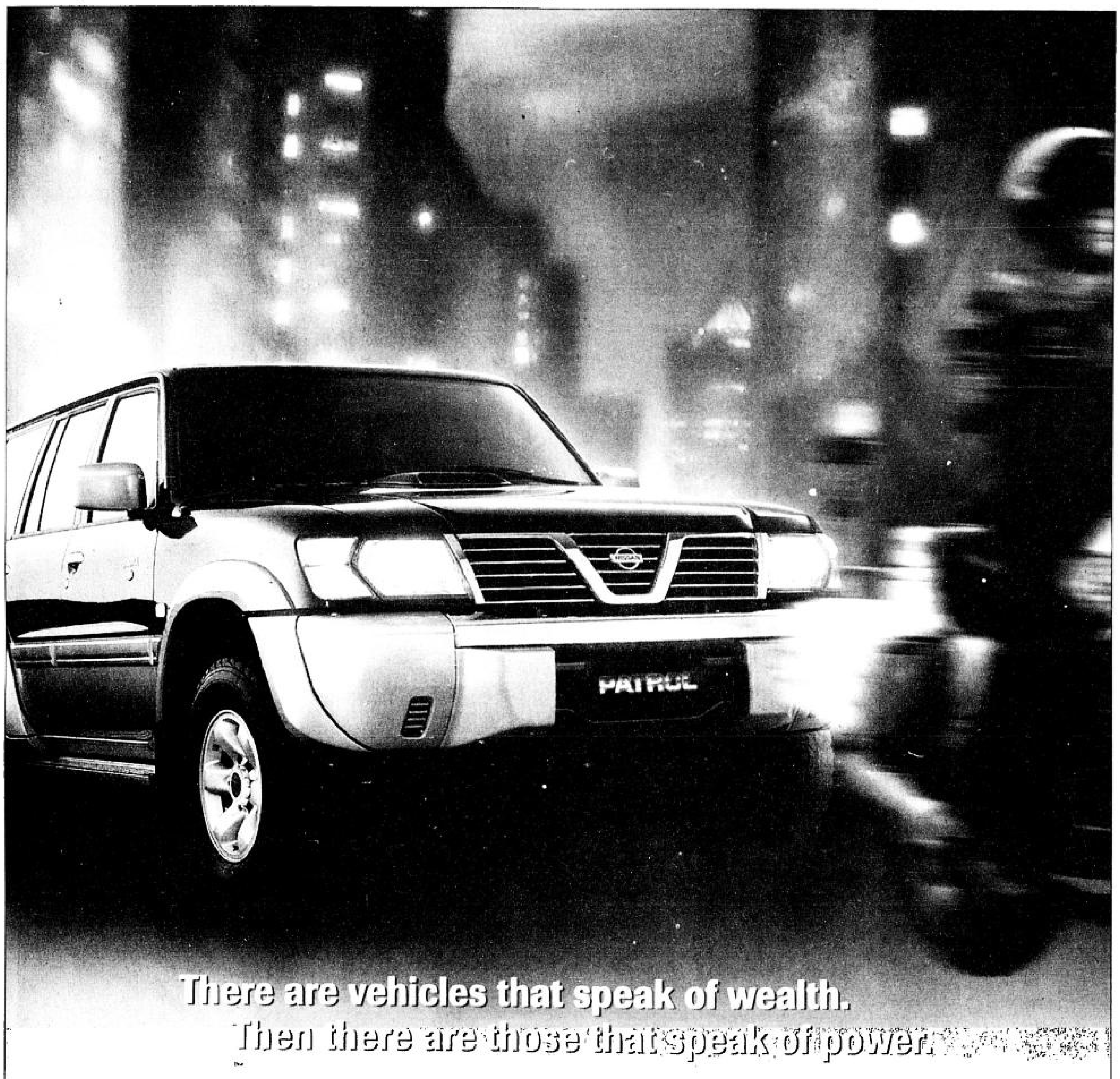
This will allow the operator to have permanent E-Pass Only lanes for both directions.

At present, the E-Pass Only lanes are operational on counterflow lanes: 6 to 9 a.m. for northbound counterflow and 5 to 9 p.m. for the southbound counterflow.

Definitely, the coming of more E-Pass lanes will ease the traffic flow at the South Expressway.

* * *

QUOTE ME. **Make it a habit to make that tank full. It makes for a healthy engine as an almost-empty tank may emit particles resting on the tank's floor.**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NISSAN

Seduction by Volvo's S60

BY VERNON
B. SARNE

VOLVO'S S60

ONE look at the curvaceous S60 and you'll almost think of it as an aberration. Its luscious lines and seductive slopes could only have come from the drawing board of a carmaker known for sporty styling. Like BMW or Jaguar, for instance. But the elegant decal attached to the S60's head-turning tush is that of Volvo. Yes, Volvo. The Swedish automaker that has a reputation for safety engineering, but never for libidinous car exterior design.

Indeed, the S60 is the latest of Volvo's gorgeous proofs that its days of boxy sculpture are really over. It carries on the flirtatious design motif of the S80, in fact resembling the bigger sedan in some respects. The only immediate visual departures are the more sloping C-pillars and rear window as well as the more pronounced rear shoulders. The S60 was launched simultaneously in Stockholm, Sweden, and New York City last year, replacing the now-defunct S70 in the Volvo product line.

Viking Cars, exclusive distributor of Volvo here, invited us for a drive to Tagaytay in a 2.0-liter naturally aspirated 180-hp S60, one of two variants they will market here, the other being the 2.3-liter 5-cylinder turbo (or the racetrack-worthy 250-hp T5).

The greatest strength of the S60 2.0L is not found in the engine. That's almost certainly the territory of the T5. Not that the S60 2.0L is lacking in power. Engine muscle is there when needed, but just enough for a luxurious drive. This variant's best selling points are its ride and handling. Take the excellent steering and roadholding of the S80, tweak them a little for more sportiness, and you get the thumbs-up driving qualities of the more compact S60.

Inside, the S60 is literally reeking of luxury. Audio remote control on the steering wheel. Power seat for the driver. Power foldable rear headrests. B-pillar aircon vents. A total of 8 stereo speakers. In-dash CD player. But our favorite is the factory-installed telephone system found on the center dash. You just put in a working SIM card and communicate hands-free or with a portable receiver tucked away inside a compartment beside the driver.

Safety features, as usual, are first-rate. Side impact protection system. Inflatable curtains. Whiplash protection. Antisubmarining on all seats. Front and side airbags. Antilock brake system. Seatbelt pretensioners. All these to convince us the sexy S60 is a legitimate Volvo inside and out.

Viking Cars president and CEO Albert Arcilla projected S60 sales this year at 300 units. The first 100 buyers, in fact, get the factory-installed telephone system for free.

It's almost impossible to use "sexy" and "safe" in the same breath—unless you're referring to the Volvo S60. Prices have been pegged at P2,195,000 for the 2.0 Turbo and P2,600,000 for the 2.3-liter T5.

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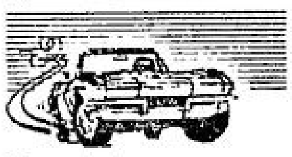
Again, where were the traffic cops?



FULL TANK
Al S. Mendoza

I GOT caught twice by traffic jams at the height of the recent Edsa rally last week. From my house to the office takes me about 40 to 50 minutes travel time on the average. On those two jams, however, each trip took me nearly three hours to get to my destination.

I didn't mind.

What I minded was the lack of traffic cops to man the usual choke points while the jams were on. Aggravating the situations were traffic lights that were not working.

Why is it that each time an Edsa rally occurs, we hardly see traffic cops at work? Are they at the rally, too? Or is it off-duty for them each time a rally is in progress?

Paging MMDA head Ben Abalos.

* * *

I missed the press preview of the Volvo S60. I repeat my apologies, especially to both Lyn O. Manalansang and Bonjin Bolinao. Lyn, whom I have yet to meet in person, called me up twice to extend the invitation to drive to Tagaytay. Bonjin, who was in Paris, took time out from her vacation to drop me a line: "Please go to the Volvo launch, Al?"

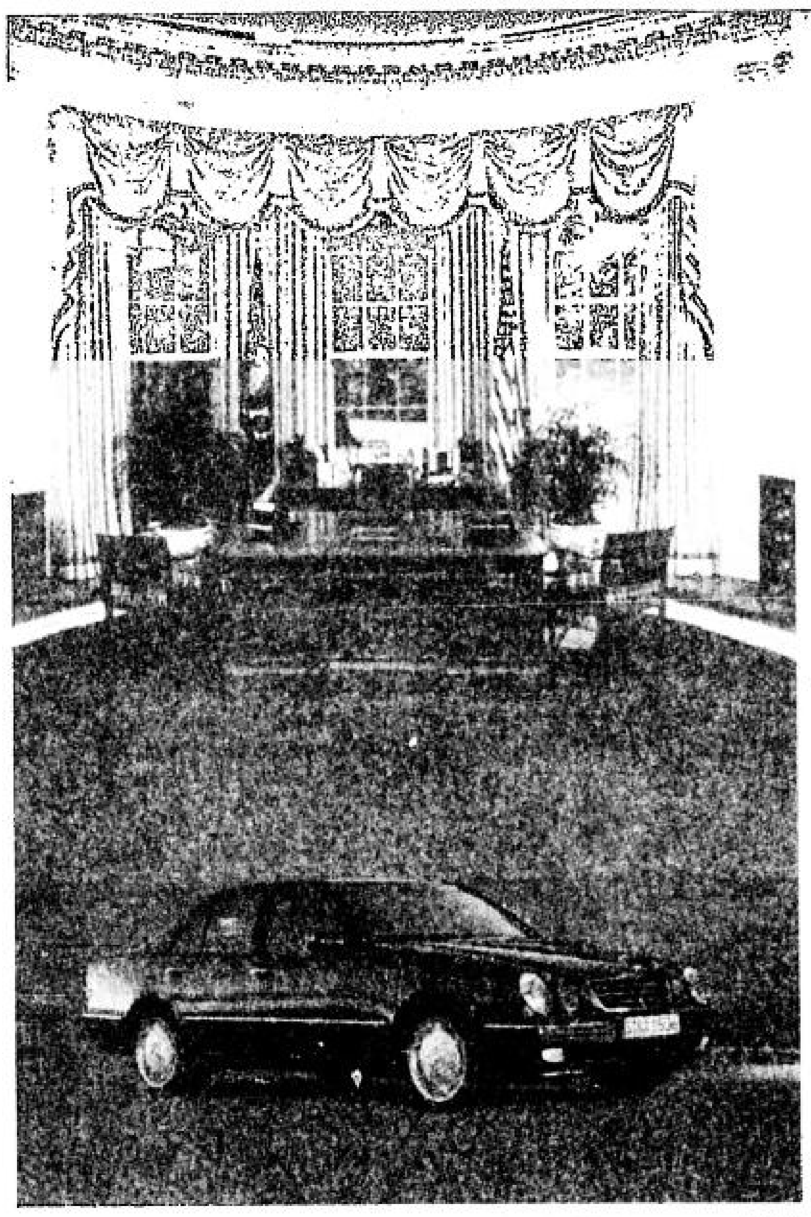
I had hoped really to join the trip. But—this is a bit corny?—as I told the two ladies, the day of the trip was the morning of my, uh-oh, birthday. You know what happens when an Aries celebrates his birthday: Booze flow. Literally, that is. Thus, I skipped the Tagaytay trip rather than appear like a zombie in a most adorable occasion.

It was so unique a press preview that it should be the envy of Volvo's rivals. Consider: Once you get to Tagaytay Highlands on board the Volvo S60, it's not all blah-blah-blah about how beautiful the new Volvo Babe is.

It was more than that.

Each participant was given a choice of indulging in any of the following: badminton, golf, swimming, table tennis, driving range. If none of the above did not suit your taste, you were allowed the luxury of choosing another activity. Like just simply sitting

AGAIN/PB6



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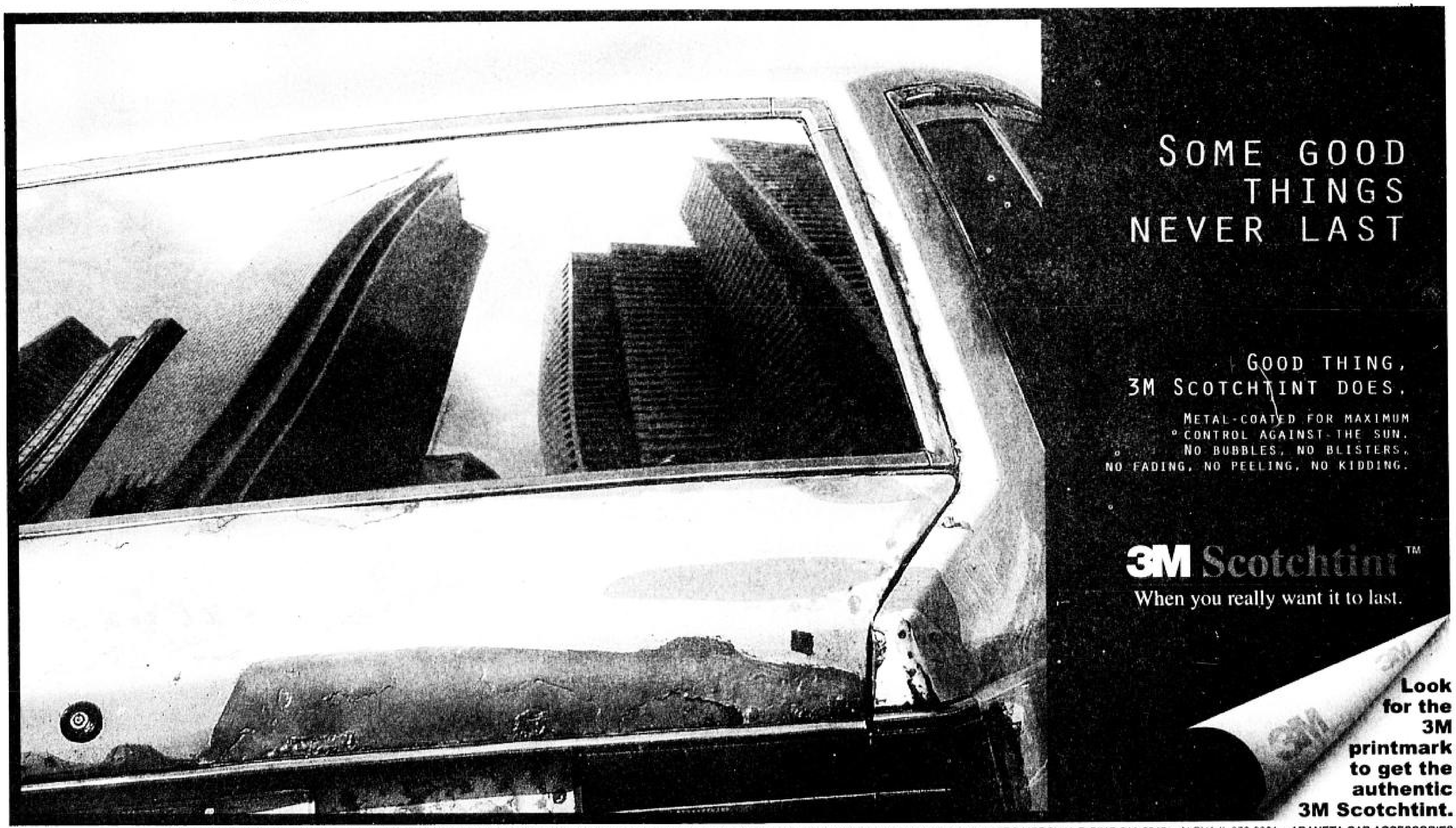
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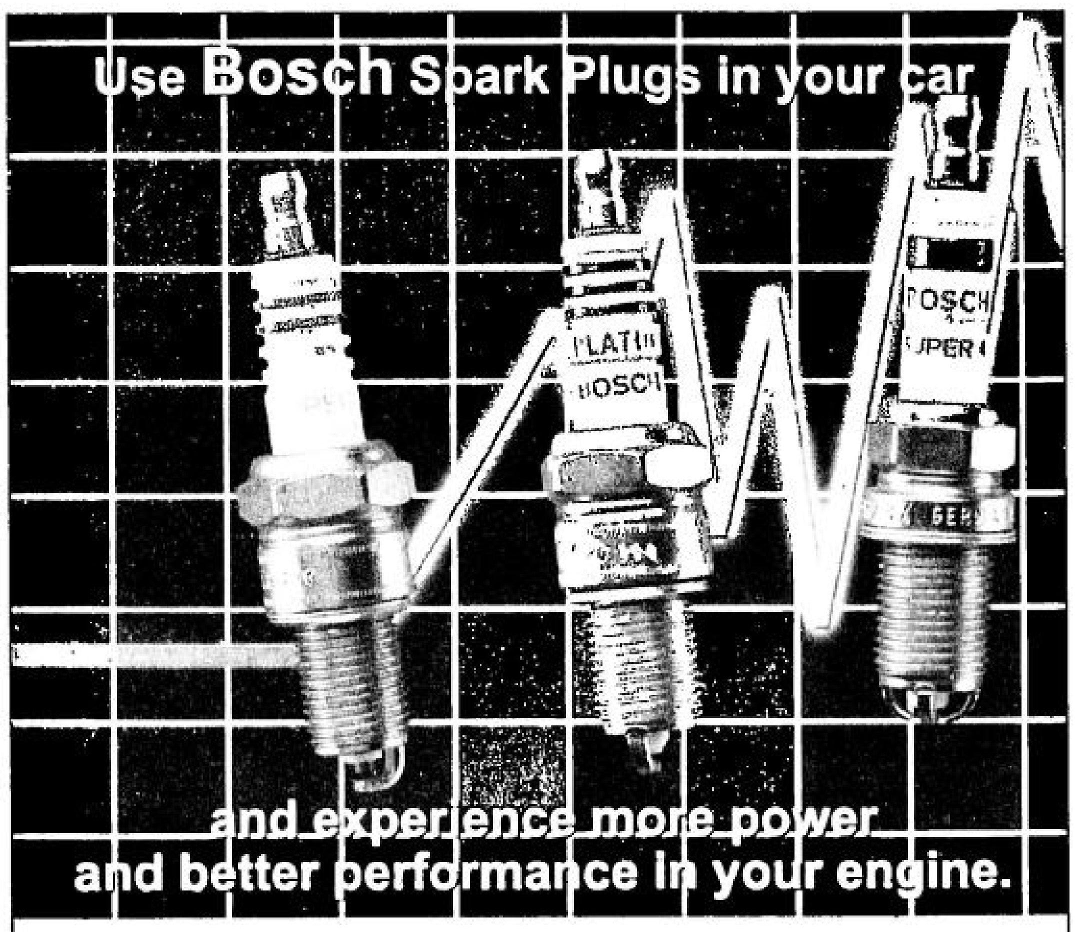
MOTORING

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor

Survivor series at Mt. Pinatubo, take 2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TEXT AND PHOTO
BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

I HAVE a mild fear of heights and flying, which I try, as much as I can, to overcome.

Though it would be a traveler's bliss for others to be given assignments to Europe, United States or even in nearby Asian countries, I try to avoid such opportunities. I would have to drag my feet to the airport. My knees would wobble, my mouth would water, my heart and head would pound and throb viciously.

Fears

But for everyone's information, I endured these fears, and have actually been to Europe, the United States, and parts of Asia. See, my fears are really just "mild."

So one Friday, I decided to say yes to an invite to a Ford Pinatubo conquest. I considered it was even worse than flying: Driving and riding on a 4x4 pickup up a recently erupted volcano along a 29-km treacherous pathway. The first Mt. Pinatubo conquest took participants through 14 km. It seemed Ford had just "doubled the fun."

Again, we humans would be caught in the "crossfire" between nature and machine. The mountain's steep drops, uphill slopes and volatile ground are pitted against Ford's ultra-daring machines.

I had a phobia for offroading. What was I doing here? I was thinking, though the six 4x4 Ford Ranger Pinatubo edition trucks had no wings, I might as well have been on an airplane because one mistake would send us crashing down thousand-foot ravines (70 percent of the trail was on a knife-edge ridge).

The pickups worked on trails mostly three to four meters wide. Certain portions were weak. Soil could erode anytime. The campsite was 4 km short of the rim of Mt. Pinatubo's crater. The trail was "handmade" by 200 people. Ford said it allowed no machines during the construction of the trail to maintain the rough, off-road quality of the path.

Ford's Faiz Sheik's humor didn't help ease my tensions during the orientation, nor did it help that Ford's Camyl Basa asked for my insurance's beneficiaries and my birthdate. I gulped when I saw the route map of such ominous sounding trail names: "Elimination Hill," "Heaven's Gate," "Dragon's Tail" and "Dragon's Back." Ever heard of an "Uphill Inverted L," "Lightning Hill," or "Stairway to Heaven" route on your last out-of-town trip?

Down the drain

Whatever guts I had completely went down the drain when I saw the sign "Do not panic in case of eruption. Leave contact of next of kin," as well as the slogan "Not for the faint of heart."

FULL-PACKED, packed full-blast air-conditioned as the raging Ranger climbs a soft ground uphill slope.

Hello. What was I really doing here?

Still, I had myself listed on the Mt. Pinatubo Conquest 2. What can I say? I considered it all in a day's work. And what the heck. I could finally hone my skills in the off-road. This could even cure me of my fears.

So I went through the simulation test Ford required of all drivers before embarking on the real thing. The test alone was punishing enough. One moment the slope was so steep we were facing the ground. The next slope we were facing the sky on a 60-degree angle. And that was just a test. The Off Road Ware, an organization of professional 4x4 drivers, was there to give participants a "crash" course and to rate the types of terrain we seemed to excel and flub in.

Sizing up the situation

The simulation test helped us size up the situation. I was surprised, though, that I did quite good, according to my instructor Joel. The rating I got was 2 out of 3, he said. Sounded like the therapy was working on me.

Driving partner Popong Andolong of Today, a veteran rallyist, passed with flying colors. Along with coach Joel and another off-road professional, Kits Aragon, the four of us were confident we could bring the Ranger 4x4 Pinatubo edition truck No. 5 up the campsite safely.

We set off at 7:30 a.m. from Mimosa in Clark. The first stage was described as a "walk in the park." I was assigned to drive on this stage. After resetting the trip meter back to zero, it was to be my last glimpse at the dashboard. Right after Apu Duman's place, the treacherous path beckoned. A four-meter-wide slope forming the number "7" welcomed me in, with a deep cliff to the right and a mountain wall to the left. I drove up to our first river crossing 9 km after the start. Not bad for a beginner, I thought.

I then hopped on over to truck No. 6 where Philippine Star's Brian Afuang and coach Edgar manned the wheels. They allowed me to drive for a kilometer after the Dragon's Tail. Partner Popong got to drive up to the first Ford campsite.

After a while of being like cowboys riding on wild horses, my fear was starting to wear off. I was beginning to look down on the cliffs with a straight face. I even had the guts to ride at the pickup bed during the sharpest drops and climbs. I even whooped it up at the most crucial part of the trail involving a 60-degree slope. We literally hung on for dear life at the bars (Imagine Titanic sinking halfway down. And I was Rose). Gadgets' magazine's Rhea Hermosa rode almost the entire trail at the bed of the pickup, her camera clicking away.

Certification

Another crucial part was Lightning Hill, a long, steep slope which used to be inclined 75 degrees, though it was flattened a bit to make it "tamer" *(sayang!)*. This time, though, the machines had to do it alone. We had to hike from here on while the Rangers were winched up. It took 20 minutes for each pickup to be winched because the ground was so soft, traction was indeed a problem. We walked the last 4 km to the campsite just before the sun completely set.

Nevertheless, the Rangers remained steadfast and cool during the entire ordeal. Wait a minute. Was it an ordeal? I actually enjoyed it. And I'm sure the workhorse engines inside the Rangers were smiling from piston to piston.

Though we fell just a few kilometers short of the rim, these Rangers aren't giving up. They're set to conquer the mountain—from foot to summit—this October.

Time for small triumphs right now, however. This little lady with a mild case of acrophobia and aviophobia got her certified survivor certificate on a Sunday afternoon.

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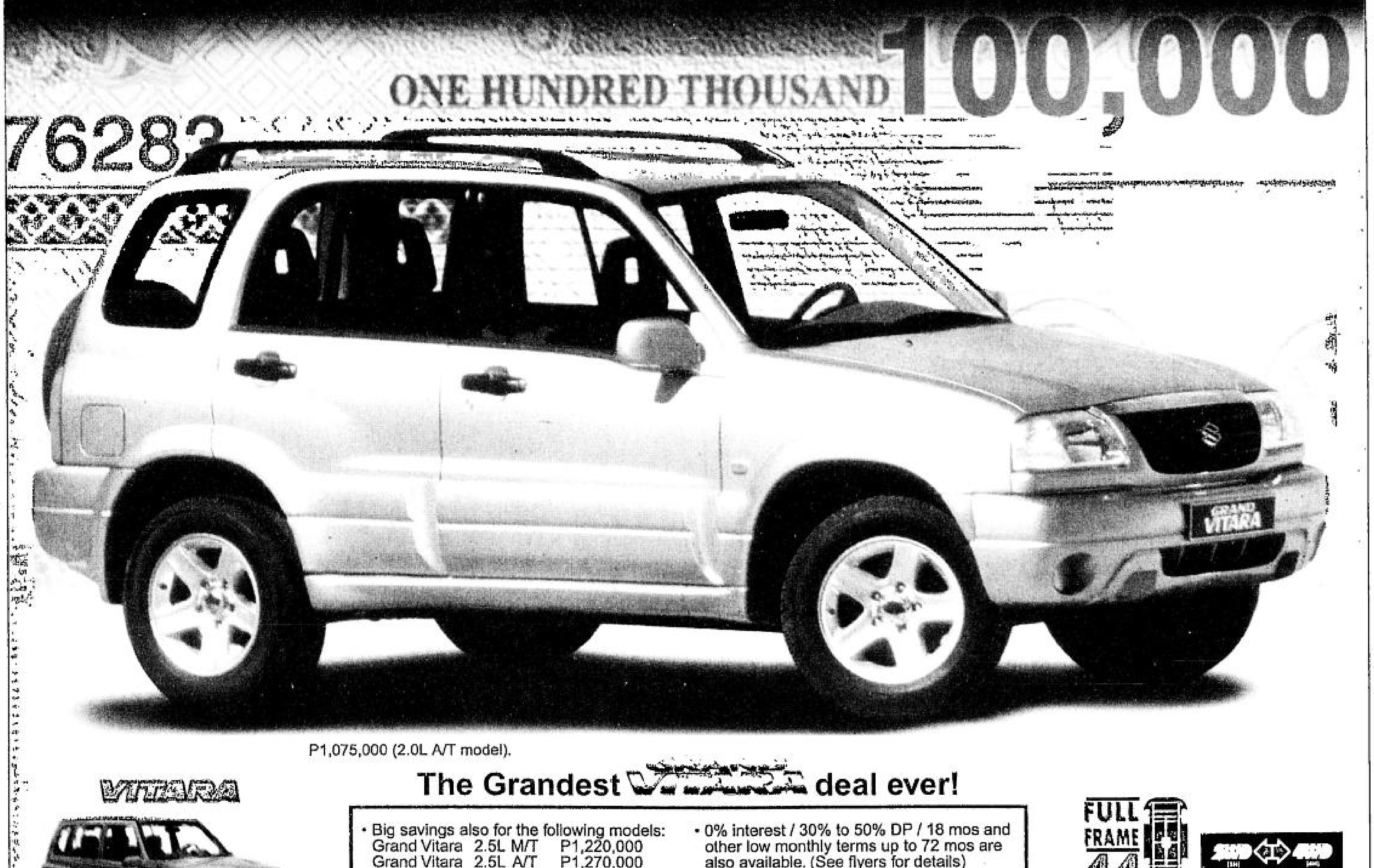

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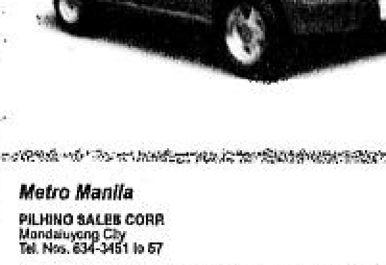

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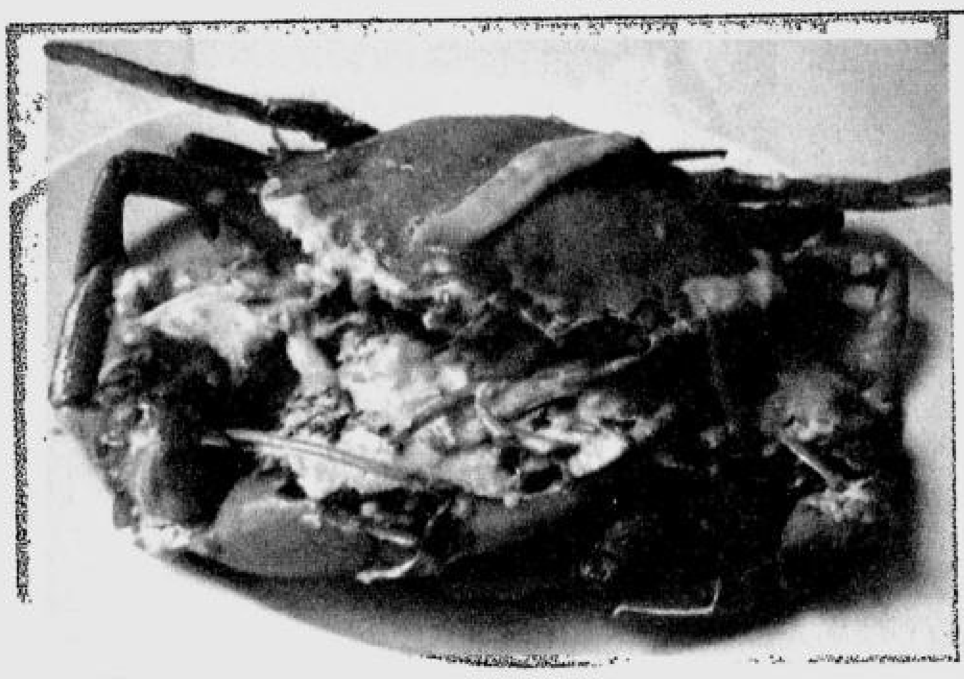
LIFESTYL Tastes
CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor



It's hard to top Crab Adobo sautéed in rich crab 'aligi,' ginger and spices

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(Story on page C7)

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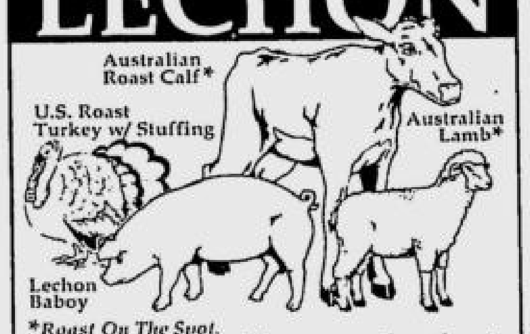
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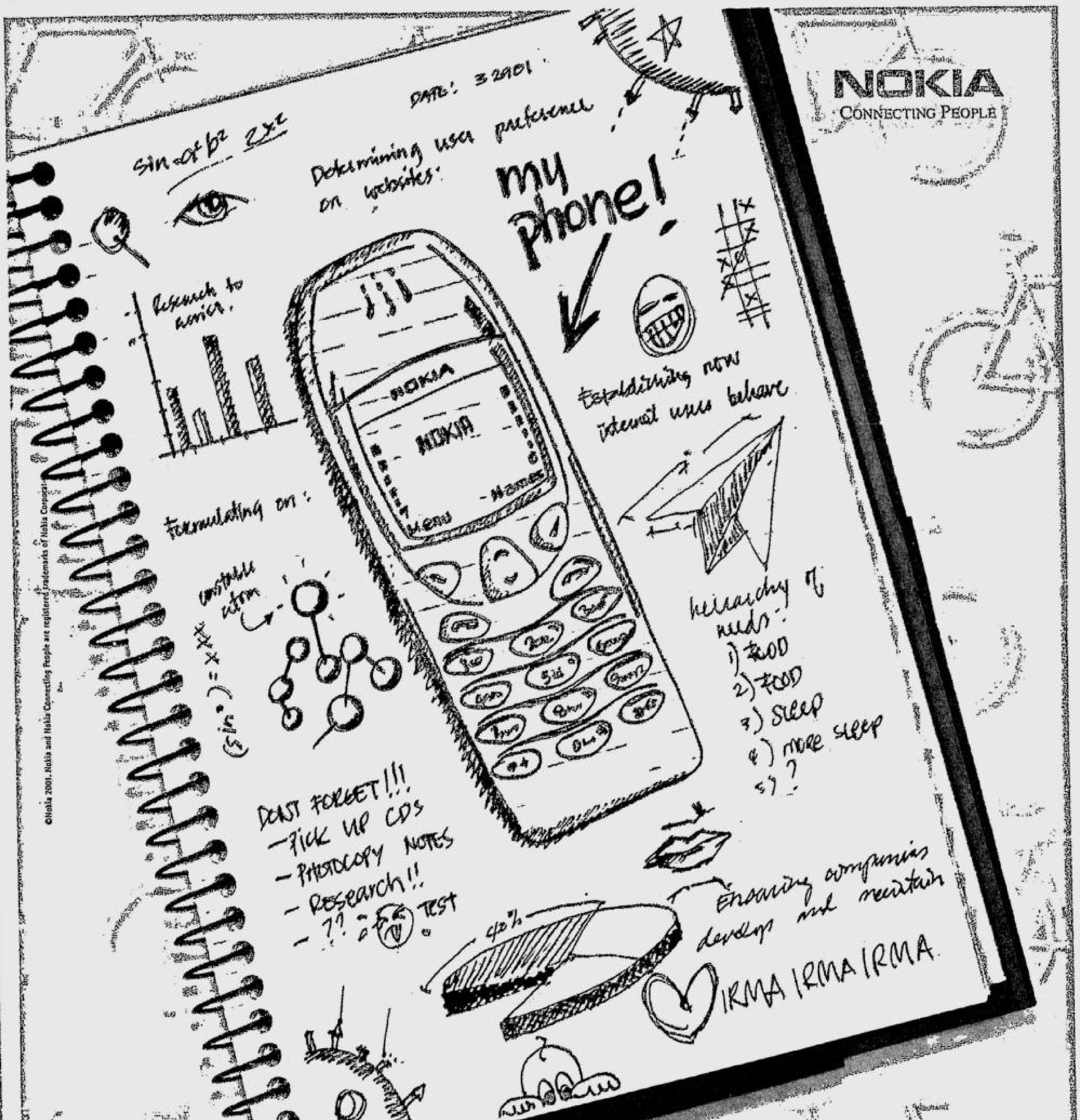
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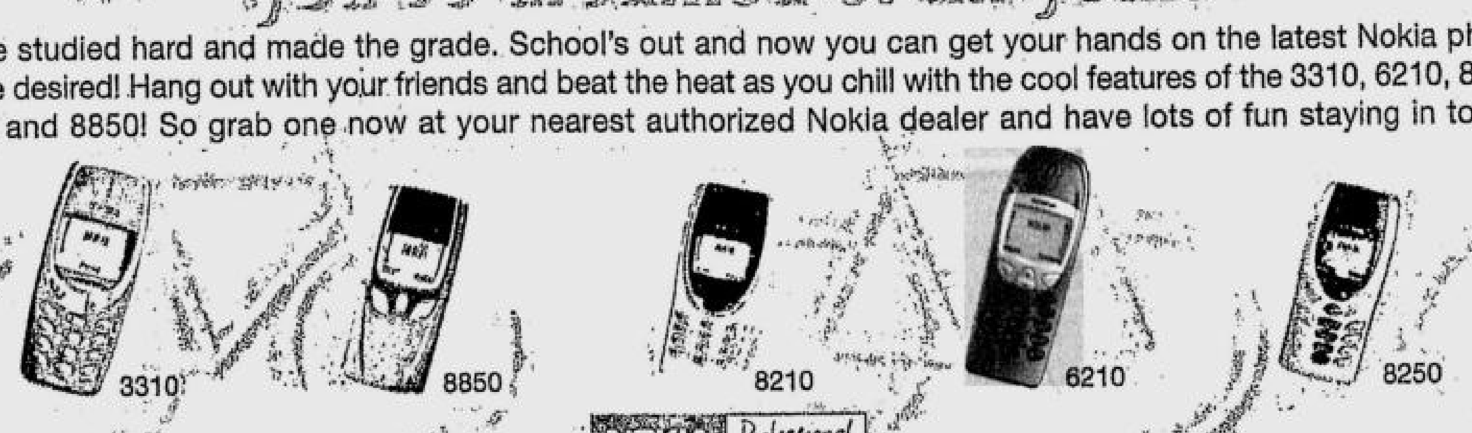
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ORGANIC CHICKENS

Nothing foul about these fowls

By Cathy Babao Guballa

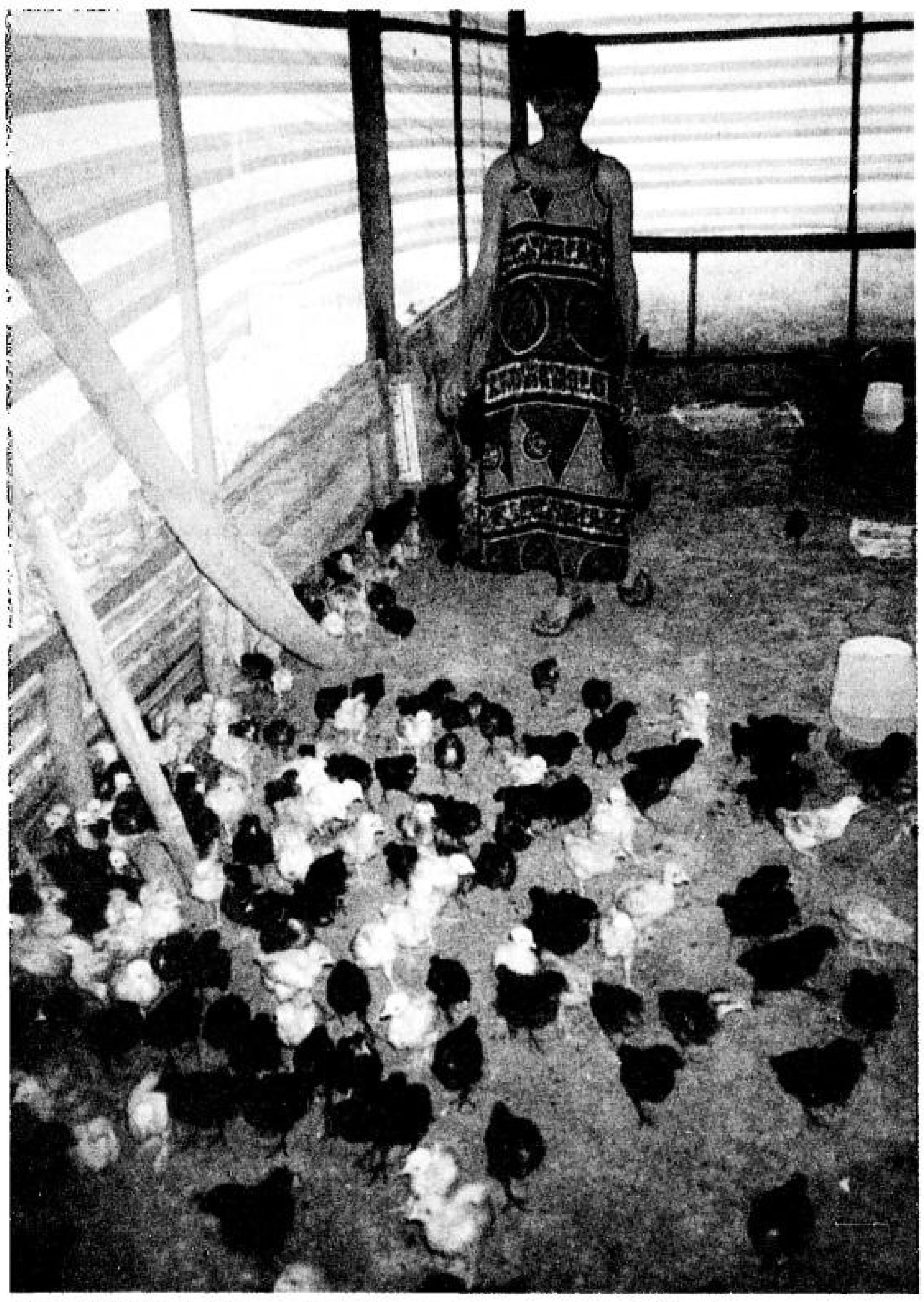
ZONITO Torrevillas' love affair with chickens began in the mid-'80s when she did a lot of soul-searching.

Born and raised in the Protestant tradition in Mindanao, she came to Manila upon graduation from Silliman University. Her first job was as a reporter for one of the leading newspapers. "I was assigned to the Malacañang beat and for six months was not able to go to church at all," she relates. Uncomfortable, she quit the job and went back to Silliman to take up a master's degree in Divinity. During her coursework and immersion, she encountered a lot of farmers and became fully aware of their sad plight. "I said to myself ack then, whatever it was I would do in the ıture, I would include the improvement of their ves."

Fast-forward five years later, after a broken ıarriage, Zonito, together with her year-old son, ied to build a life in Thailand where she found work with Dow-Jones online. However, after six years, Zonito fell terribly ill and had to come home. "I would wake up at 7 a.m. and after two hours would have tremors and dizziness. I could hardly function. The doctors could not diagnose what was wrong with me and so I decided to come home, prepared to die," she says of that confusing time in her life.

Back in Manila she was diagnosed with hyperthyroidism. Thinking that she had only a few months to live, she spent a great deal of her ime working with the United Church Foundation. It was then and there that her desire to help farmers was rekindled.

Soon after Zonito realized that she wasn't going to die. "It was like having a second lease on life." She was hired by the American PR firm Fleishmann-Hillard where she now works as vice president. It was while working at the firm that she got introduced to the benefits of organic chicken and this is where the story of Zonito's Organic Chickens began.



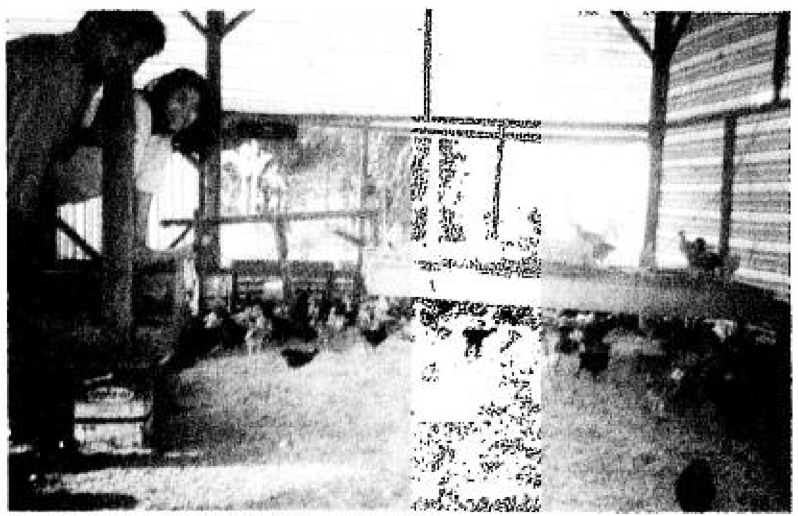
FREE TO ROAM. Chicks are given to farmers to raise as part of a livelihood program.

Healthy birds

According to Zonito, organic is the way the chicken is grown in their farm (in Dasmariñas, Cavite). "The chickens are free to move around and their feeds do not contain fishmeal and bonemeal (recycled fish and meat that are unfit for human consumption). They are also free rom growth promoters and antibiotics," she explains. Zonito says that the birds are imported rom Asso [illegible] France and follows the strict standards of Lat[illegible]

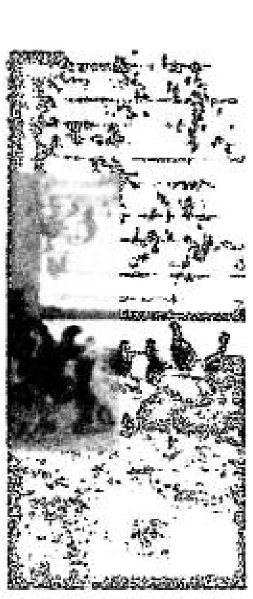
When cooked, [illegible] are low in caloric content and very tas[illegible] Raised in clean, shaded areas with adequate foliage such as grass nd creeping legumes, the chickens are allowed) freely graze after 10 days. "We feed them with a wholesome diet of soybeans and corn plus the cuttings of natural herbs from my aunt's herbal farm next door," says Zonito. When the birds are sick they are given natural medication as well—*sili* for colds and peppers for the pox. "In cases where the disease cannot really be controlled by *sili* or peppers, we give them a low dose of antibiotics and subsequently separate them from the rest. We also do not sell them as organic chickens but as regular chickens only."

Zonito emphasizes though that antibiotics are not really advisable for chickens. "The withdrawal period of any given drug is from 7-14 days That's why when the drug has not been washed out of the fowl's system, when you eat the meat, you taste and eat the antibiotics. Thus, a lot of people complain about being allergic to chicken when they are actually allergic to chicken meat that contains sediments of antibiotics."



RAISING chicks in clean, shaded areas

> These birds are fed no growth promoters, antibiotics or anything not fit for human consumption



Zonito challenges those with "chicken allergy" to try out their organic chicken. "They'll discover that they may have no allergy at all."

Livelihood programs

Aside from the countless benefits of eating organically raised chicken, Zonito continues to fulfill her dream of providing livelihood for the farmers she holds dear. She beams with pride as she tells the story of Becky, a widow with eight children who has a small property just two minutes away from the farm. "We provided the construction materials for the chicken house, and Becky's sons put it up. It's large enough to contain 1,000 free-ranging organic chicken. We also provided the feeds and chicks while Becky took care of raising them. A month ago they harvested 985 chickens and split the profit 50-50. Becky earned some P15,000 during the three months she was raising them. Now she's preparing the house for another batch of chicks.

Zonito initially financed the livelihood program with her Christmas bonus and monthly salary from the firm where she works. She is also in partnership with longtime friend Bobby Chang, who handles the marketing side of the business. "The livelihood scheme is actually twofold; one can be a part of the donor program and the produce partner or buyer program," Zonito explains.

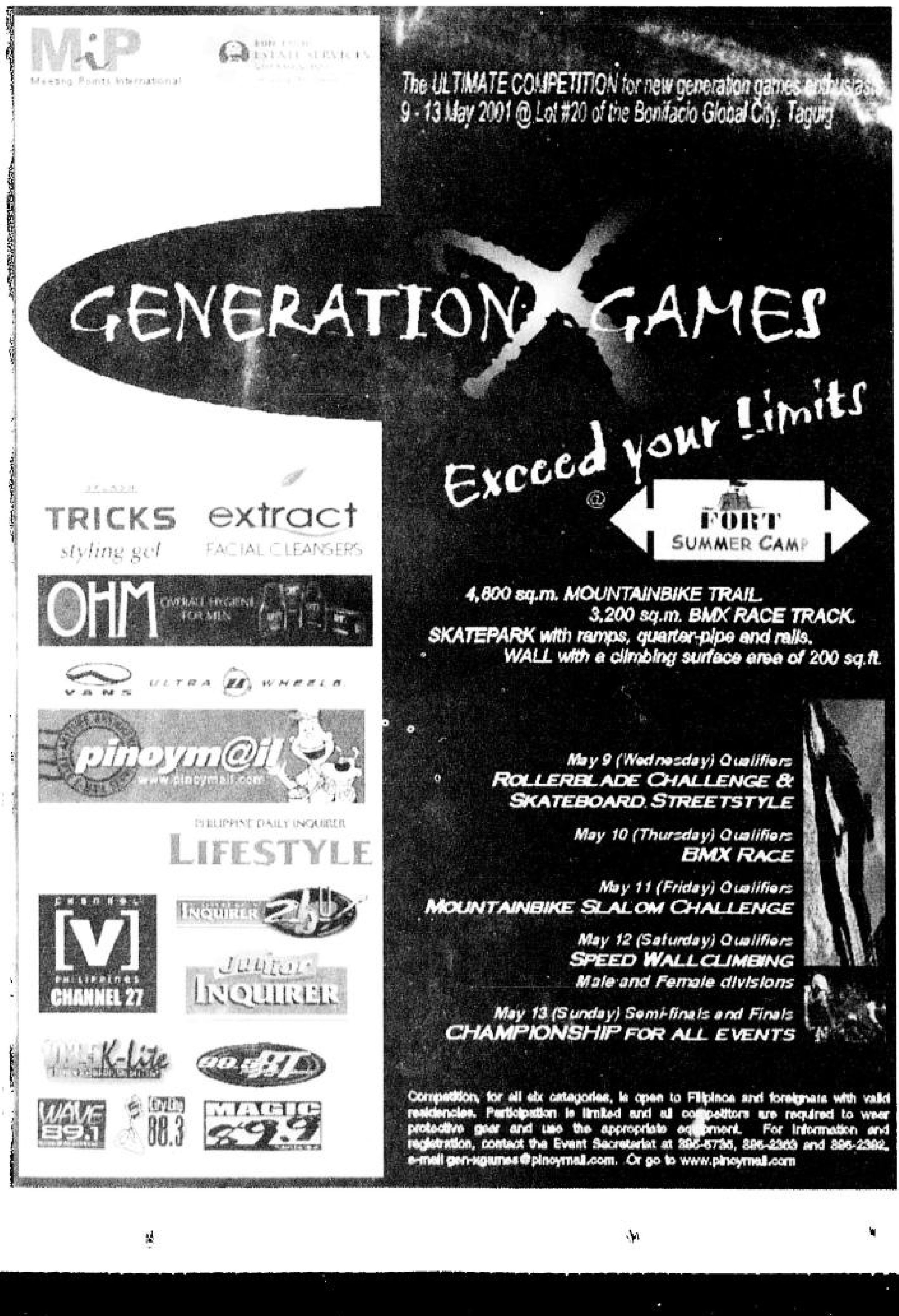
Under the donor program, one shells out money to support a farmer's poultry project. The donor gets a regular chicken supply of 8 kg a month. As long as the poultry continues to run, the meat supply is steady.

The produce partner program calls for a person buying 2 kg of chicken meat a week. Since delivery is costly, the partner is encouraged to refer at least 10 more families within his/her vicinity to place a regular order every week to make the scheme cost-effective.

Organic chicken costs slightly higher than your regular chicken but when you think about all the health benefits you derive, it's worth the extra pesos. Plus, you get the intrinsic reward of knowing that somehow you have helped uplift the life of a chicken farmer.

Call Zonito's Organic Chickens at 400-2262 or 141-217978

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph



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May 10 (Thursday) Qualifiers
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May 11 (Friday) Qualifiers
MOUNTAINBIKE SLALOM CHALLENGE

May 12 (Saturday) Qualifiers
SPEED WALLCLIMBING
Male and Female divisions

May 13 (Sunday) Semi-finals and Finals
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Competition, for all six categories, is open to Filipinos and foreigners with valid residencies. Participation is limited and all competitors are required to wear protective gear and use the appropriate equipment. For information and registration, contact the Event Secretariat at 896-5735, 896-2363 and 896-2392, e-mail gen-xgames@pinoymail.com. Or go to www.pinoymail.com

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Sandy Daza whips up his fave dishes

IT'S going to be a unique experience as culinary expert Sandy Daza whips up some of his favorite dishes from his cookbook, "Happy Eating," the latest collection of his tried-and-tested recipes. They are as delicious as they are easy to prepare.

It will be an afternoon of cooking demos, games, raffles and product sampling on May 5, 1:30 p.m. at the Emelita Galang Culinary Arts Studio, 110 MacArthur Highway, Balibago, Angeles City. Call 671-9876 to -91, local 402-405.

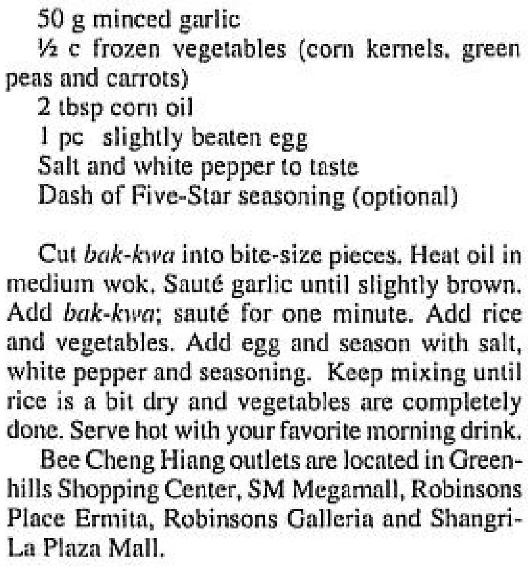
Rice and shine in the morning

MOST people don't get enough carbohydrates in their diet. The best time to get them is at breakfast. This recipe for Bak-kwa Fried Rice is perfect for health-conscious individuals because it contains no MSG, no preservatives and no artificial colorings. Bee Cheng Hiang's *bak-kwas* (barbecued meat) are made from the leanest meat and made with 100-percent natural ingredients.

200 g Bee Cheng Hiang *bak-kwa* (chicken, beef or pork)
4 c cooled cooked rice
50 g minced garlic
½ c frozen vegetables (corn kernels, green peas and carrots)
2 tbsp corn oil
1 pc slightly beaten egg
Salt and white pepper to taste
Dash of Five-Star seasoning (optional)

Cut *bak-kwa* into bite-size pieces. Heat oil in medium wok. Sauté garlic until slightly brown. Add *bak-kwa*; sauté for one minute. Add rice and vegetables. Add egg and season with salt, white pepper and seasoning. Keep mixing until rice is a bit dry and vegetables are completely done. Serve hot with your favorite morning drink.

Bee Cheng Hiang outlets are located in Greenhills Shopping Center, SM Megamall, Robinsons Place Ermita, Robinsons Galleria and Shangri-La Plaza Mall.



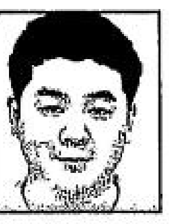
Enjoy weekends of Mediterranean cooking

AZZURRO Bistro and Wine Bar's growing clientele can now take home more than its popular Spanish, French, Italian and Greek favorites, by letting them in on the secrets of its sought-after cuisine with Azzurro's unique cooking class (P1,500), as chef Philip John Golding showcases his much-touted culinary genius on traditional and flavorsome Mediterranean dishes every Saturday, for the months of May and June. Schedules are as follows: May 5—Contemporary Mediterranean; May 12—Italian Cuisine; May 19—Kid's Class (7-15 years old); May 26—Greek Cuisine; June 2—French Cuisine; June 16—Spanish Cuisine.

Appropriately titled "Relax, It's Just Cooking," it's exceptional for allowing a semi hands-on involvement among the attendees, while adding valuable lessons in Wine Pairing. A delectable lunch with a complimentary glass of wine complete this extraordinary, very sensible deal from Azzurro. Azzurro Bistro and Wine Bar is located at the G/F Glorietta 4. Call 729-5800 or (0919) 518-1543.

Dreams of the Big Apple

THE MAD TEA PARTY



Clinton Palanca

DO you know what it signals when the waiter at Peter Luger's puts an inverted saucer in front of you? Do the letter/number combinations 1-9, N-R, 4-5-6 mean anything to you? Do the words "Meatpacking District" call to mind butchers carefully wrapping haunches in polystyrene, or visions of trendy cafés with models, actors and editors talking the night away under a haze of cigarette smoke?

Know what I'm talking about? Ah, pleased to meet you; you must be one of our city's Manhattan Cognoscenti, a masonic group of individuals who use a subtle series of tests to establish that you are, indeed, a denizen, past or previous, of that famed bit of rock in the river, and not just someone who breezed through on a package tour (tickets to "Cats" included in the price). It might be that you've spent a year there at NYU for a master's degree, or that you regularly make buying trips there for business reasons, or that you have a little pied-à-terre where you set up house for a few months a year, preferably during opera season or in time for Fashion Week, or the US Open, or whatever.

Being none of the above, I regularly fail the cognoscenti's tests, somewhere at the point when they ask questions like: "If I wanted to go from the corner of 4th and 11th streets to Zabar's during rush hour before the Memorial Day weekend, what is the best way to get there? Enumerate three possible options, using any or all of the following means of transportation: taxi, subway, bus and foot. It is also raining violently, and you have only one leg."

ILLUSTRATION STEPH BRAVO

The New York cognoscenti look down on the California-affiliated mafia; it's like the Masons looking down on the Mob. There are just too many Filipinos on the West Coast. Besides, New York is where it's all happening, isn't it? Theater, opera, music, publishing, Wall Street, the food scene! Washington, D.C. may be the political center of the free world, Los Angeles its groin, but New York is its heart and head.

20s' angst

All around me, my friends and batchmates are going through their late-20s' angst. For the girls, this may mean that they start having dreams of giving birth to Golden Retrievers, or similarly themed indications that their biological clocks are ticking. For the men, this is when they start buying silly things; it's that brief stage when they have enough disposable income to actually make large purchases without the guilt of responsibility. This can be the only explanation why my friends are buying Bang & Olufsen sound systems or vintage Porsche convertibles. (Meanwhile, I go about buying bells. Bells are useful. They can be used to call the maid, to summon for help in times of crises, and to annoy your neighbors. You can ring them when you are joyful, you can ring them when you're sad. You can clang them when you're anxious, you can bang them when you're mad. And I can invite women up to my apartment with the truly awful line, "Would you like to come and ring my bells?")

A common theme in late-20s' angst among my friends that keeps cropping up is New York. Some talk about moving there to start a new life. Others talk about just going there, working to "gain experience," and then coming back again with the satisfaction of having proven something to themselves: because, after all, if you can make it there, you can make it anywhere, etc. I myself, while I was in the throes of designing my new apartment, blurted out one night that it might be fun to go to New York and take a few courses on interior design "or photography," I said. I had just bought a new Leica, and my friend a Lomo, and we were swapping prints.

One friend pointed out, quite rightly, that going to Parsons or FIT to study interior design, fashion, or photography sounded like the kind of thing that a 23-year-old socialite girl with no direction in life other than to marry well might do, the way Sabrina went to Paris to get sophisticated. New York is the Paris of our age; and, indeed, when the first "Sabrina" movie came out, Paris was just relinquishing its throne, which it had held for a couple of hundred years, as the seat of world culture and sophistication. (Incidentally, she went to the same school that I attended, the Cordon Bleu.) Even the *ilustrados* of the Propaganda Movement once in a while got together in Paris, where they printed a few pamphlets in between having extravagantly fun dinner-parties, which is what the Propaganda Movement was really all about.

At this age, we're also beginning to receive, with ominous regularity, beribbonned invitations in the mail to various weddings of friends close and not-so-close. Couples who have been together for six years or more suddenly break up for no evident reason. I think it comes from those late nights together, when you're just watching te-levision together, and there's nothing left to talk about. Out of sheer desperation to have something to discuss, one person jumps up and says: "Want to get married?" or "Remember my gym instructor? We had an affair. It didn't mean anything to me, but it showed me that there's something wrong with our relationship. Let's break up."

Lure of the city

And in the middle of all of this, shining like a looking-glass world, a Narnia behind the wardrobe, is the myth of New York. How many movies have we seen in which the protagonist packs his bags and sets sail for the Statue of Liberty, singing "Soon I'll be a stranger in a strange new place" or "Papa, can you hear me?" or something along those lines. I myself have felt the lure of New York over and over, and I have the Columbia and NYU Graduate School application forms in my room somewhere, though I must admit that for me the idea of having Dean & DeLuca as my corner grocery store is a large part of the appeal.

For many of our generation, New York represents dreams, ambitions, reaching for the stars; for some, it represents the road not taken, the "make it big" that was given up in favor of a stable girlfriend and a job at a Makati-based multinational. And some of them do pack up and go, and feel as though they have come home. Most stay for a while and come back to the safety and ease of being a big fish in a small pond, where being able to speak decent English is not just a basic requirement, but is your biggest calling card to a posh job. Or, as one mestizo put it, "*Hindi ako guapo doon.*"

Or perhaps the imaginary country to which I have been comparing it to has been the wrong one. New York is not Wonderland, not Narnia, but Oz. There is a corner in Greenwich Village where you can look downtown and see the twin monoliths of the World Trade Center down the road, then look to the right and see the illuminated spire of the Empire State Building, and all around you are tree-lined brownstones, some with windows open, and snatches of music and the scents of people's dinners mingling lazily in the chill. And you cry out: "We're not in Kansas anymore!" But in the end, as it was for me and for many others who have dreamed New York Stories, "there's no place like home."

E-mail the author at clinton@i-manila.com.ph

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- Roast Duck Siopao
- Chicken Siomai
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Sta Lucia Branch, Food Island, Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall, Cainta Rizal
Banawe Branch, 834 Banawe Street, corner Del Monte Ave., Quezon City

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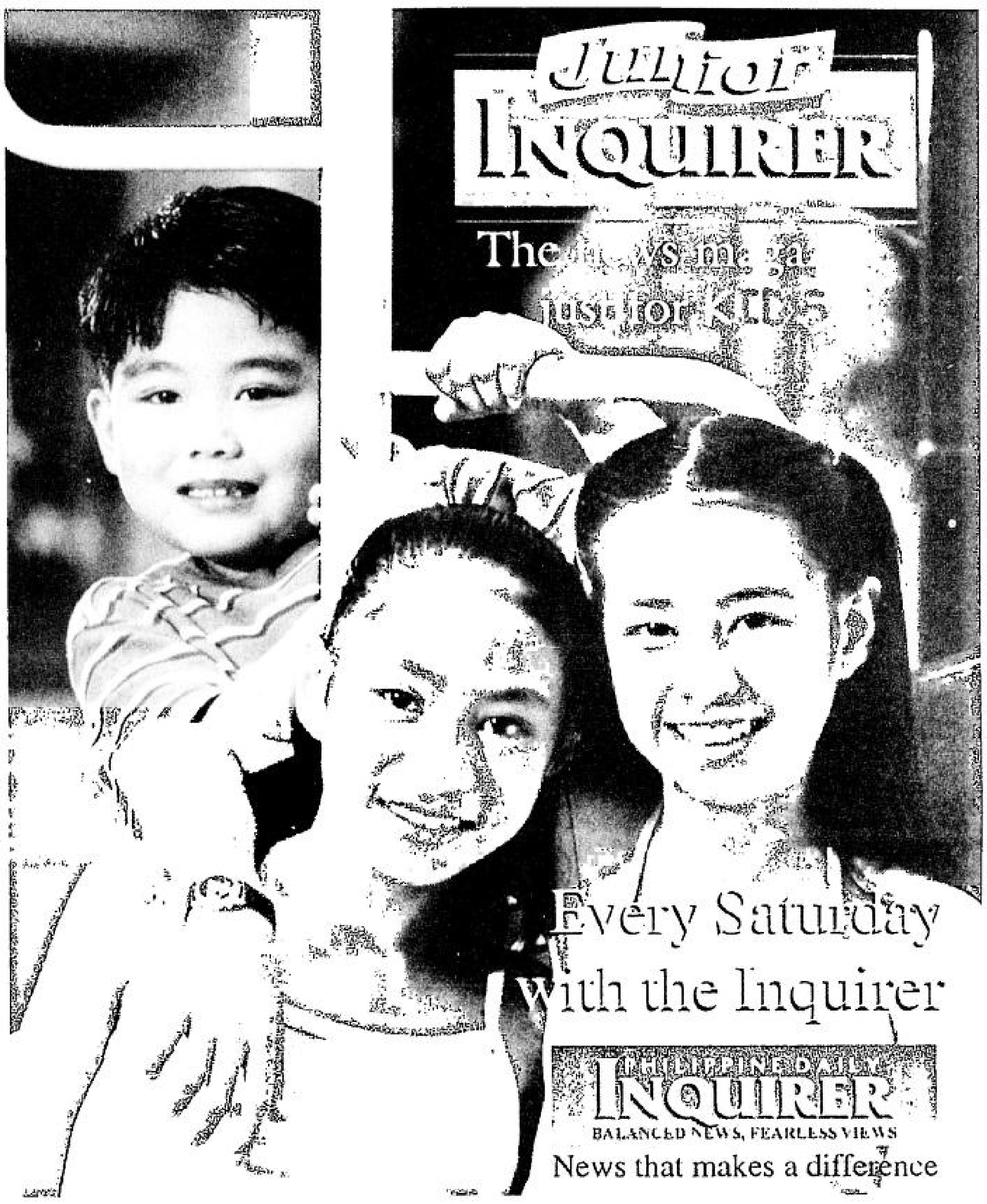
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
News that makes a difference

Slices . . .

(From page C8)

Parmesan cheese and Caesar Salad dressing. All are served with green salads.

Children have a section of the menu, with such young favorites as Original BBQ Chicken Pizza, Traditional Cheese Pizza (tomato sauce and cheese), and desserts like a brownie (with real whipped cream, Hershey's chocolate and a cherry, and a sundae (a scoop of Selecta vanilla ice cream with old-fashioned triple-thick hot fudge, whipped cream and a cherry).

Grown-ups would go for that, too, although they have a cavalcade of adult desserts, including Apple Crisp (Granny Smith apples, slow-baked with a brown sugar and butter topping and Selecta vanilla ice cream, if desired; served warm). This is yummy, and worth its calories. Marvelously, there is Key Lime Pie made from Florida limes, with a Graham Cracker crust, topped with whipped cream.

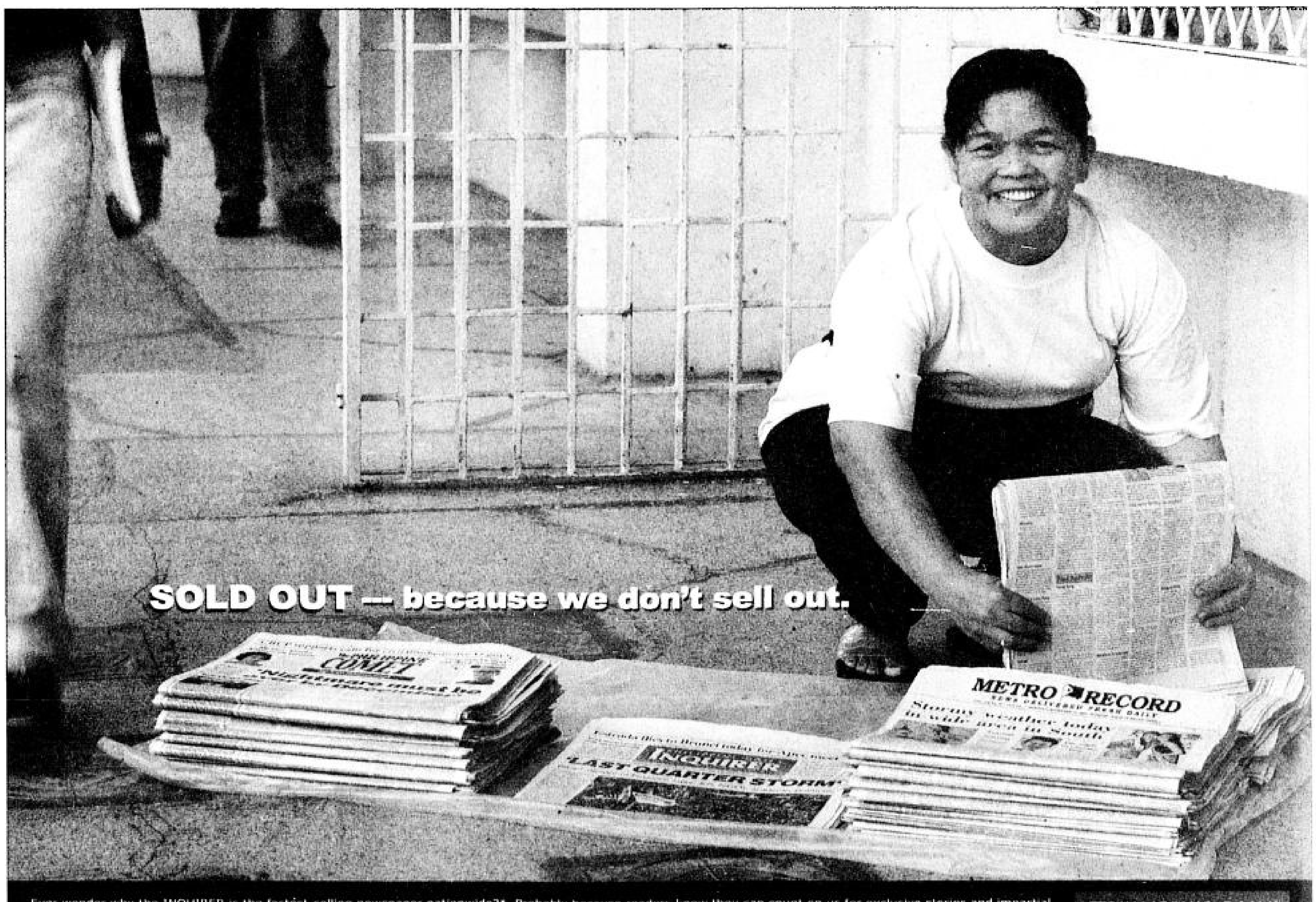
Beverages (sodas, juices, teas, coffee, water) include Banaba and Pito-pito teas (complimentary refills for all).

CPK is an American company that opened in 1985, its goal, in the words of the founders Larry Flax and Rick Rosenfield, being to "translate America's favorite flavors and tastes onto a great pizza crust." The local franchise is held by Archie Rodriguez, Jean-Henri Lhuillier, Griffith Go, Al Santos and Miguel Zubiri.

Burton Anderson is quoted by Alan Davidson in "The Oxford Companion to Food." It has been said that if Naples had managed to patent the pizza it would now be among Italy's wealthiest cities instead of one of its poorest." The pizza, totally flexible as to crust and fillings, is now ubiquitous, a citizen of the world. This visit shows that it certainly is alive and well and living in the Philippines.

Postscript

THE PINOY says it with food, even at election time. A poster fund-raiser for Bobby Tañada in April was a P1,000-a-plate *lugawan*. In the current menu at Confusion (887-5203) are dishes called Play that Tañada Tuna (tuna steaks with tomato-black olive sauce), Mad about Monsod (bacon, parsley and garlic rolled in beef tenderloin) and Jumping Joker (Thai chicken curry).



Ever wonder why the INQUIRER is the fastest-selling newspaper nationwide?* Probably because readers know they can count on us for exclusive stories and impartial coverage that tell it like it is. Which may be why the INQUIRER also came out No. 1 in credibility and readership numbers (total and across *all* age groups and sectors) nationwide, according to the Asia Research Organization survey (Sept. 30, 2000) and Pulse Asia (Dec. 1999). **To all our advertisers, supporters and loyal readers, thank you for helping us prove every day that independence is smart business.**

*According to the Newspaper, Magazine & Comics Dealers Association of the Philippines, Sept. 2000.

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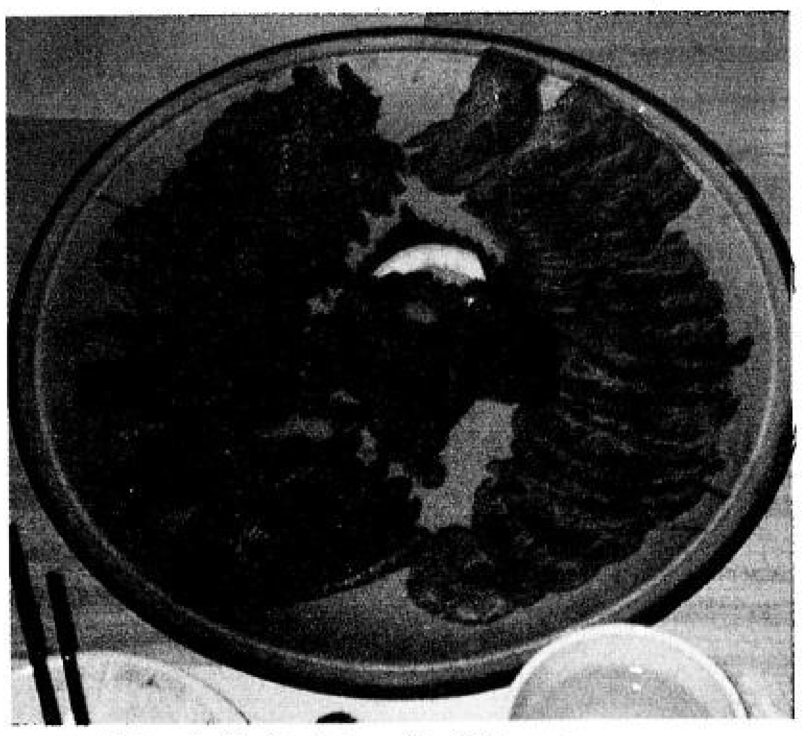
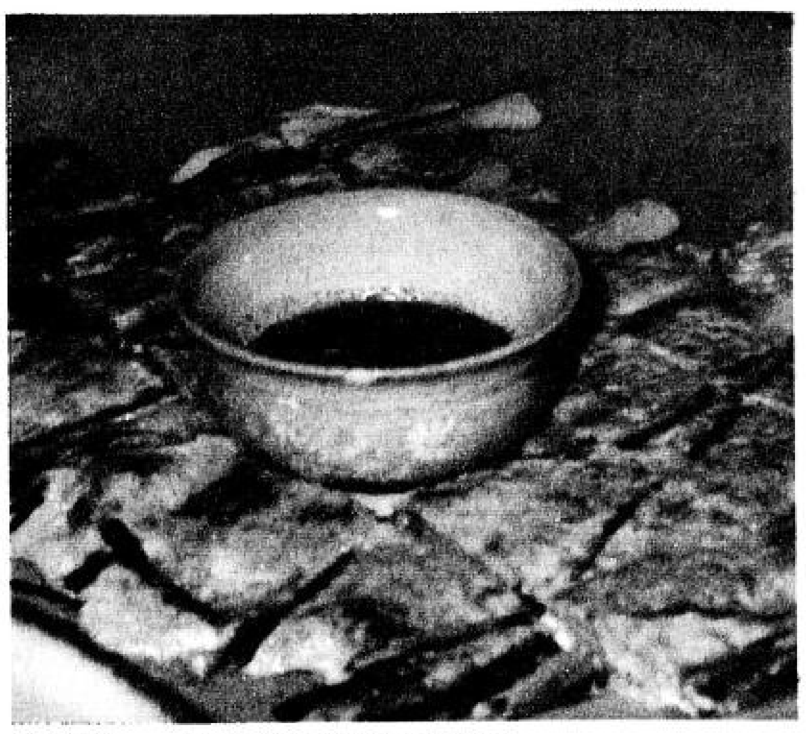


OHYANG Suyuk, sliced duck breast in a light sauce

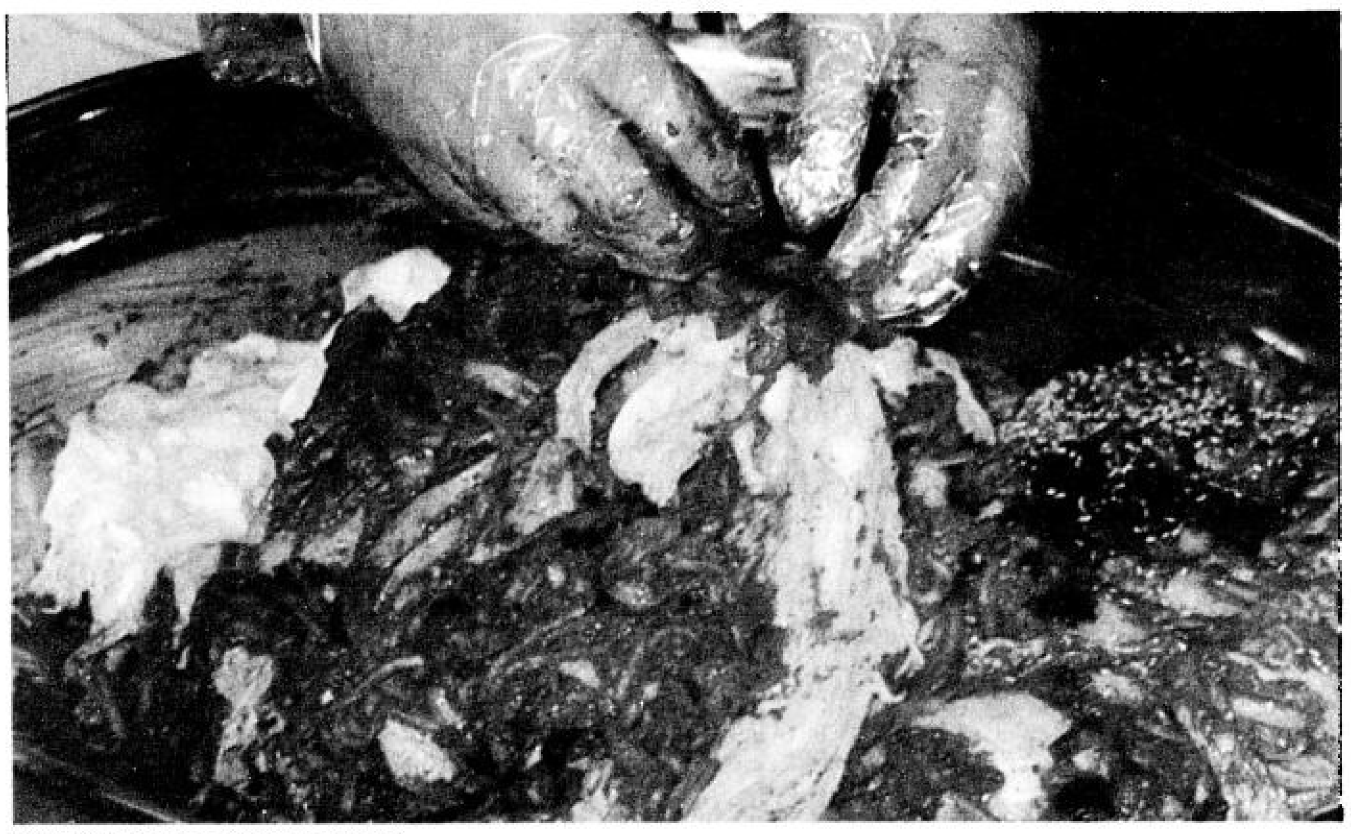
DUCK meat is wrapped in a thinly sliced radish.



KOREAN pancake with beef and green onions

You haven't been to Korea if you haven't had 'kimchi'

TEXT AND PHOTOS
BY VANGIE BAGA-REYES



THE FIERY spice of Korean *kimchi*

FOOD is one of the indispensable joys of traveling. You discover a variety of dishes with strange names and unfamiliar spices, prepared a peculiar way. But, as they often say, you learn to understand the country and its people through their food, whether prepared traditionally or fusioned with foreign influences.

Just recently, my taste bud was again aroused after sampling—and later relishing and savoring—authentic Korean food. The Korean culinary scene is alive, fascinating and bursting with exciting dishes. I've attended quite a few Korean food festivals in Manila and have eaten in several Korean restaurants, but nothing compares to eating *kalbi chim* and *kimchi* in their country of origin, prepared the traditional way, set on a low table with bright red chili paste on the side, metal chopsticks and a hot cup of ginseng.

In my few days in Korea, thanks to the Korea National Tourism Organization and Asiana Airlines, I learned more about their traditional and everyday dishes. Of course, among Korean delicacies perhaps *kimchi* and *bulgogi* are best known to foreigners. Like our native Bicolanos, Koreans love hot and spicy food, especially the fiery spice of *kimchi*.

On my first day in Korea, I was told visitors cannot really say they have been to Korea if they have not tasted *kimchi*, the famous cabbage dish fermented in chili pepper spice. Koreans eat it with almost every meal. Those who are not accustomed to spicy food are advised to eat it cautiously. A slice of radish will wash down the spice in your mouth.

A typical Korean meal is almost always accompanied by a big bowl of hot soup, boiled rice and five to six kinds of side dishes, such as beansprouts, seaweed, tofu, fried cuttlefish and dry squid with chili paste. Actually, the side dishes alone are enough to fill you up before you can devour the main dish. I skipped the beef as main dish in one dinner after consuming seven of the 10 side dishes.

Unusual greens

Koreans are proud of their diet because their classic meal contains a variety of veggies and wild greens. Korean markets carry a huge variety of unusual greens. Their vegetables are usually parboiled or stir-fried and seasoned with combinations of salt, soy sauce, sesame oil, garlic and green onions.

Korean food is seldom deep-fried like Filipino and Chinese food; it is usually boiled or blanched, broiled, steamed or pan-fried with vegetable oil. My favorite is *bibimbap*, Korea's version of Mongolian barbecue. The rice is topped with mixed veggies (cucumber, pumpkin, spinach, carrots, beansprouts, seaweed) and placed on a hot stone pot. Before eating it, you have to add red pepper paste to taste and mix it thoroughly with the rice and vegetables. An order of *bibimbap* costs 6,000 won or $4. It goes best with Andong's Soju, which is comparable to vodka but less potent. Soju is a popular Korean liquor made from sweet potatoes.

Beef and duck meats are more popular than pork and chicken. Koreans believe their homegrown beef is more tender and delicious. But, recently, Koreans have been importing beef from Australia to augment their beef supply. My recommended dishes for first-timers are *tungshim kui*, which is barbecued sirloin broiled at the table then cut in bites and dipped in salt and sesame oil; *chang-o kui*, eel broiled with a sweet and tangy sauce; *kalbi kui*, charbroiled marinated beef ribs; and *P'ajon*, fried pancake with green onions, seafoods and mushrooms.

I noticed Koreans don't eat dessert. If there's any, fresh fruits are served instead. Now you know why most of them are slim and svelte.

Table settings and manners

Koreans have different table settings depending on the occasion, the main dish and the number of side dishes. Usually, to each person's left are arranged rice, soup, spoon and chopsticks, while stews and side dishes are placed in the center to be shared by all members.

Koreans use a long spoon to eat rice, soup and stews, and chopsticks for rather dry side dishes, but spoon and chopsticks are not used simultaneously. Unlike the Japanese, Koreans

Para sa mas malinaw na mata, tin

Ikinararangal ng Purefoods Beefies H
na makamit ang Sangkap Pinoy seal
mula sa Department of Health.

Ang Sangkap Pinoy seal ang inyong tanda
Beefies Hotdog ay fortified with Vitan
Kami ay nakikiisa sa inyo at sa DOH par
mapangalagaan ang kalusugan ng inyon

PUREFOODS HORMEL

KOREANS believe that sharing food from one bowl makes a relationship closer.

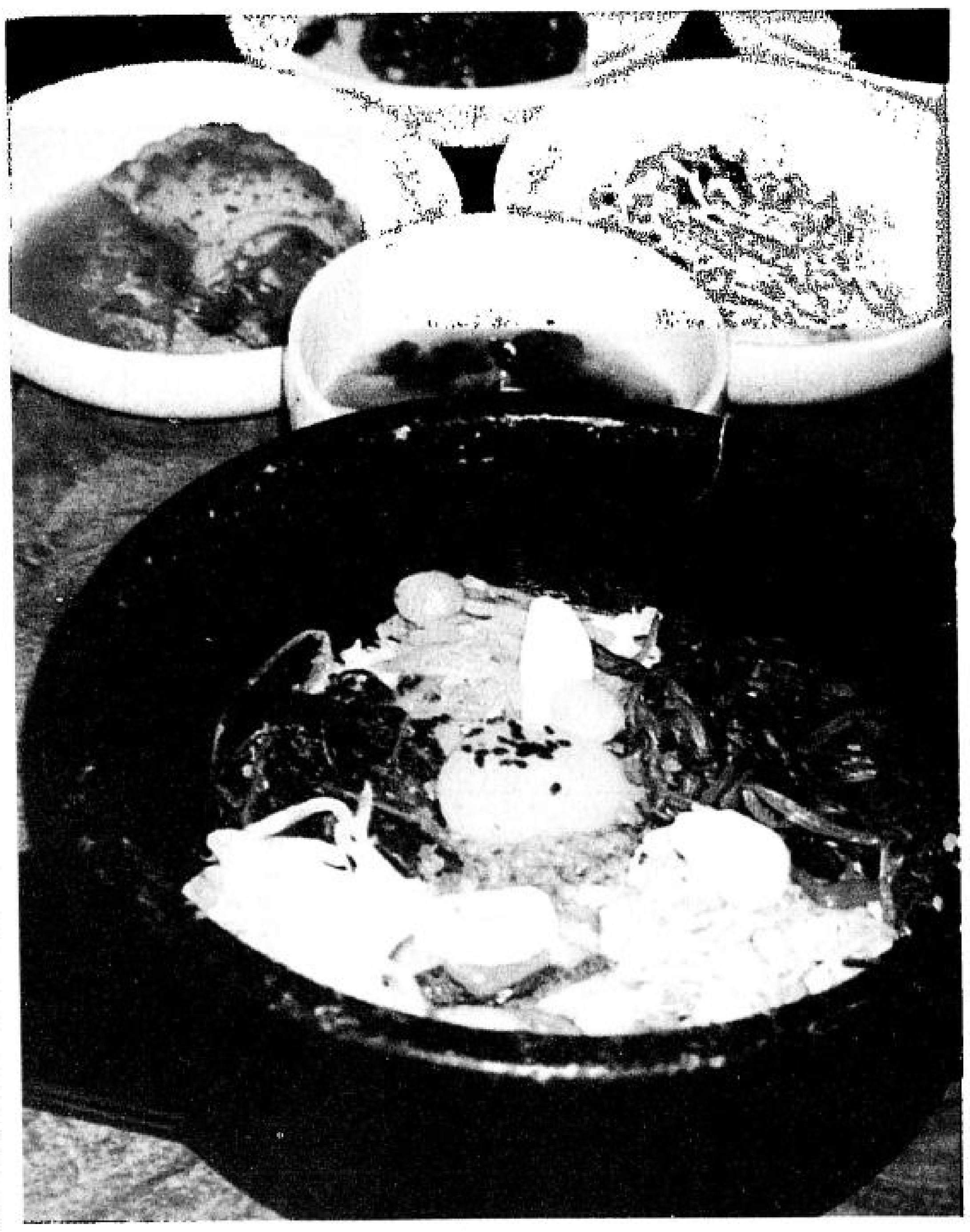
> Nothing compares to eating a dish in its country of origin, prepared the traditional way, set on a low table, with a hot cup of ginseng to wash it down

also do not hold their bowls and plates while eating. It's bad manner to them. When the meal is over, the spoons and chopsticks are placed back in their proper spots. In the olden days, talking was not allowed at the dinner table. Silence was a sign of respect for the food on the table. But today the eating etiquette has become more liberal in Korea. You can discuss politics or other family matters at will without being reprimanded by the elders.

Korean snacks

Like us, Koreans enjoy rice cakes. Our *puto* and *kutsinta* have similarities with their rice cakes. I enjoyed the *p'at-shiruttok*, which is a rice cake alternately layered with pounded red beans. It looks like the classic tiramisu. *Injolmi* is steamed and pounded glutinous rice coated with bean powder or hulled red bean powder. It's like Laguna's *espasol*. *Kyongdan* is glutinous rice dough formed into small balls and coated with different-colored powders made from sesame seeds, beans, cinnamon and chestnuts. It's like our version of *pitchi-pitchi*.

TRADITIONAL Korean table setting



BIBIMBAP, Korea's version of Mongolian barbecue

I didn't get to try street food in Korea due to a tight schedule. But when I got the chance to go to Dongdaemon, a shopping district in Seoul, I saw rows of food stalls selling fishballs, noodles and other snacks. I was later informed by our Korean translator that in shopping districts, traditional markets, back streets or areas bustling with crowds there will always be street vendors, canopy wagons or food eateries offering snacks. The food is cheaper, albeit greasy.

So if you have plans of going to Korea for a food expedition, prepare yourself to eat fiery *kimchi* or you'll miss out on the excitement of dining, Korean style. Here's a simple recipe for *kimchi* lovers straight from the Korean kitchen.

T'ongbaech'u kimchi

(Whole cabbage kimchi)

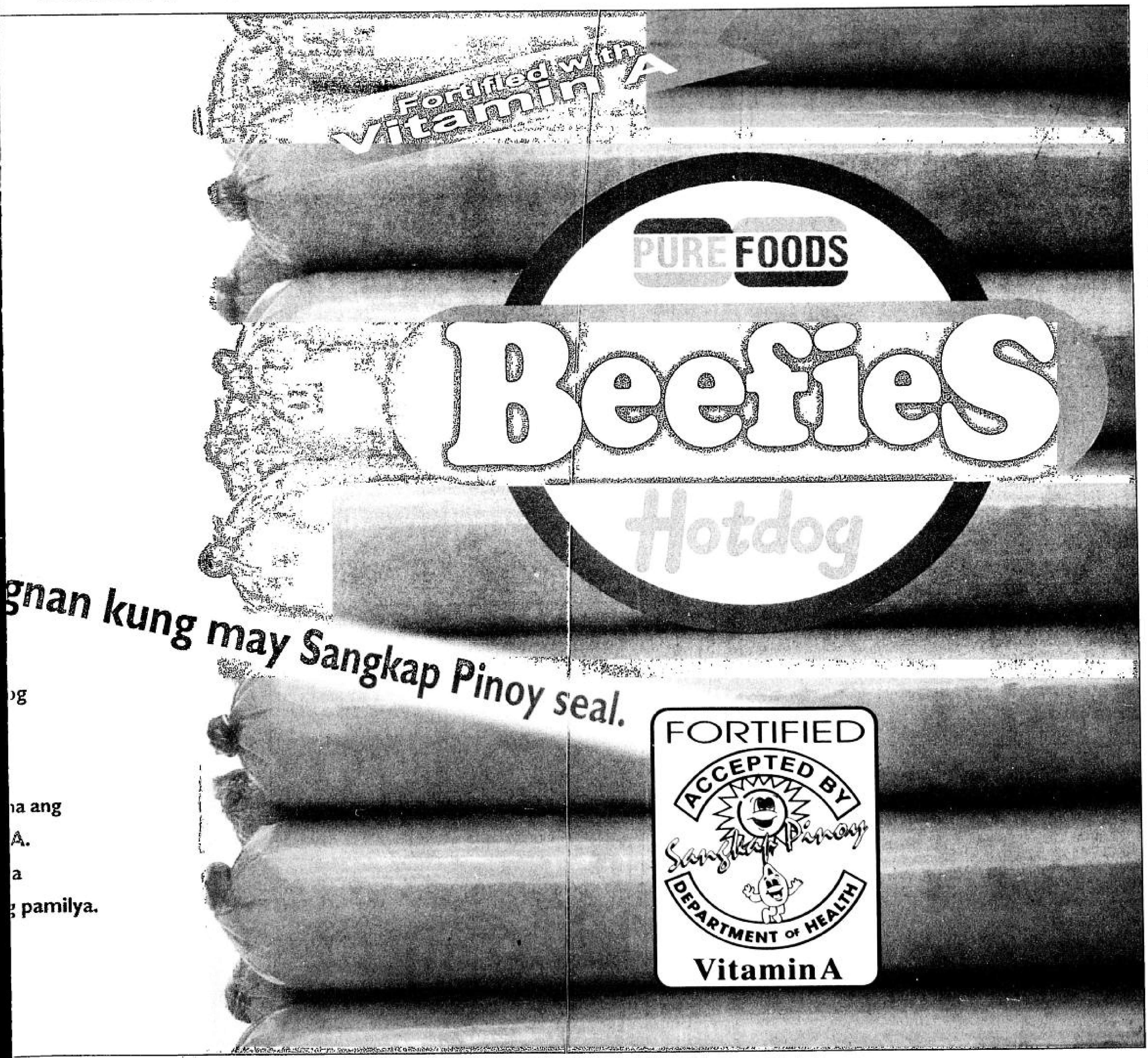
5 heads of Chinese cabbage
2 white radishes, julienne
1 bunch of watercress, cut into 5-cm pc
2 green onions, finely chopped
2 c hot red pepper powder
4 tbsp salt
4 tbsp sugar
5 cloves garlic, minced
1 root of fresh ginger, crushed
1 c tiny salted shrimp fresh oysters (optional)

Carefully cut cabbage in half, lengthwise. If the cabbage is unusually large, cut in half again, making four lengthwise quarters. Wilt the cabbage either by sprinkling liberally with coarse salt and letting it sit for four hours, or by soaking in strong brine for 12 hours. (If brine doesn't cover the cabbage, then turn occasionally.)

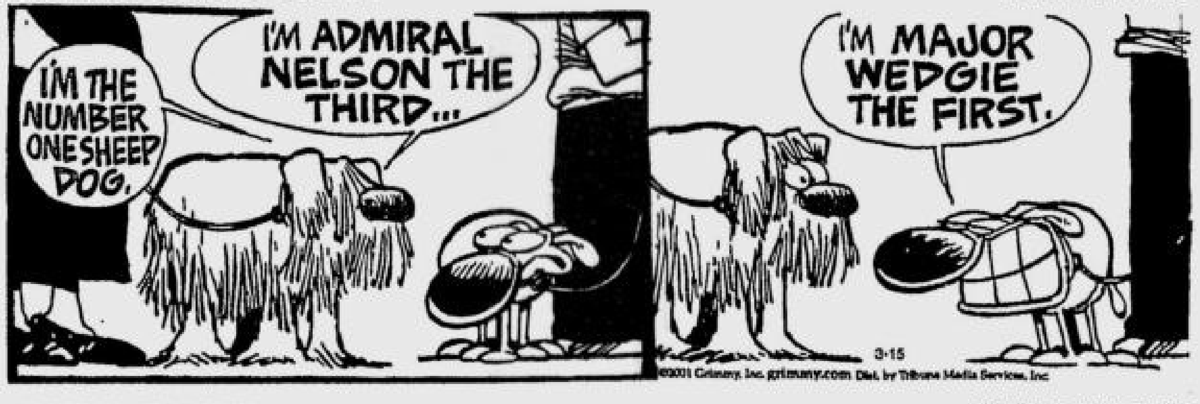
Mix the salted shrimp juice into the red pepper powder. (To take out some of the kimchi fire, reduce the amount of the pepper powder.) Add radish strips and knead well with hands. Add the remaining ingredients and mix thoroughly using your hands. Rinse the cabbage thoroughly in clean water and drain well. Pack the seasoned mixture between each leaf of the wilted cabbage.

Fold over stuffed cabbage sections to hold in the seasonings, and fasten loosely by wrapping the outer leaf around the section. Pack the bundles in a crock or kimchi jar. Keep at room temperature a day or two, then refrigerate. Cut into bite size before serving.

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph



MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS


I'M THE NUMBER ONE SHEEP DOG.
I'M ADMIRAL NELSON THE THIRD...
I'M MAJOR WEDGIE THE FIRST.
3-15
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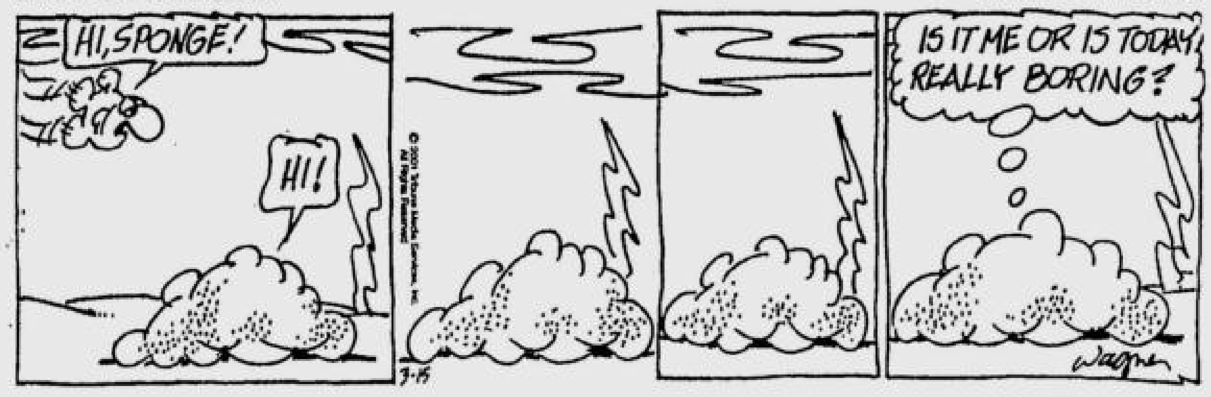
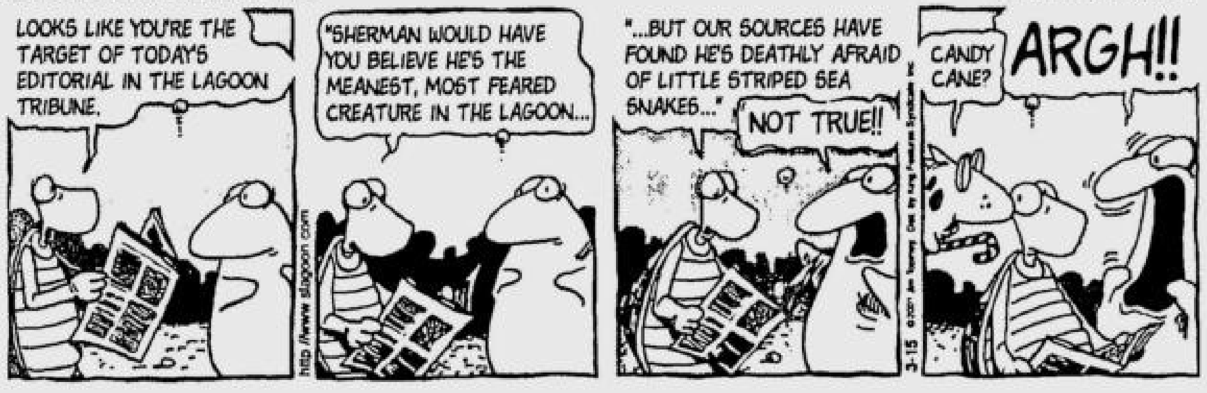
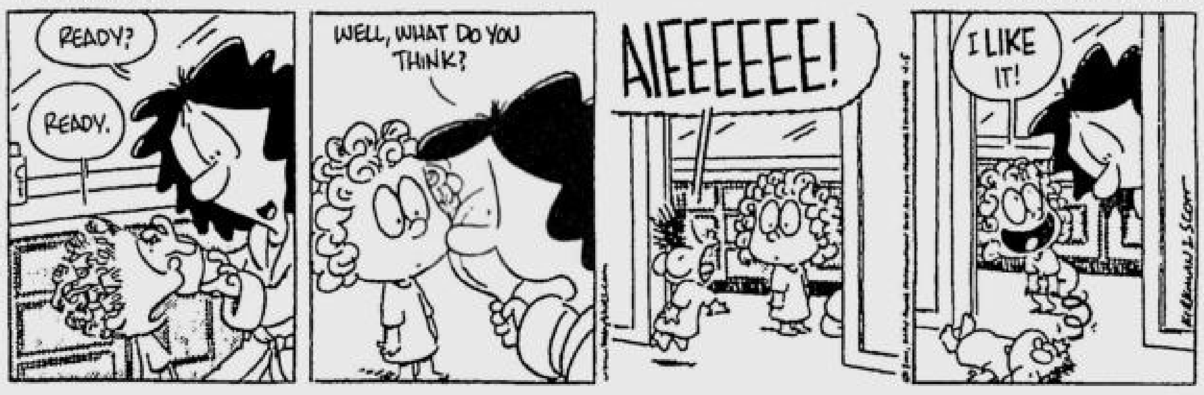
ANIMAL CRACKER BY FRED WAGNER


HI, SPONGE!
HI!
IS IT ME OR IS TODAY REALLY BORING?
3-15
Wagner

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY


LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE THE TARGET OF TODAY'S EDITORIAL IN THE LAGOON TRIBUNE.
"SHERMAN WOULD HAVE YOU BELIEVE HE'S THE MEANEST, MOST FEARED CREATURE IN THE LAGOON...
"...BUT OUR SOURCES HAVE FOUND HE'S DEATHLY AFRAID OF LITTLE STRIPED SEA SNAKES..."
NOT TRUE!!
CANDY CANE?
ARGH!!
http://www.slagoon.com
3-15

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


READY?
READY.
WELL, WHAT DO YOU THINK?
AIEEEEEE!
I LIKE IT!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Sugar Ray Robinson; Greg Gumbel, Doug Henning, Mary Hopkin, Pete Seeger

Happy Birthday: If you're looking for love, this is the year to find it. You can rekindle a flame that has almost burned out or meet someone new who will give you a new lease on life. You have sat around long enough. Now you should become involved in organizations that will encourage and contribute to your interests. Your numbers: 8, 13, 16, 23, 29, 34

ARIES (March 21-April 19): It's time to make those career changes that you've been considering. Follow through on all the interviews you set up. You can rely on peers to help you. Relationships will open up if you're willing to talk.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Get down to business. You need to make personal changes that will leave you feeling good about yourself. Become involved in activities that will help you get into perfect form.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Things are too hectic on the home front. It's time you took a break or a vacation. Don't spread yourself too thin, or disagreements with your partner will unfold.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Spend some time with friends or relatives. You can open up to your mate about what you expect from the relationship. Your sensitive nature will make it easy for him or her to oblige you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Moneymaking ventures should be on your mind. Talk to friends who may have similar interests. Small business enterprises can be set up with little overhead if you all chip in.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your partner will be hard to deal with. Don't push him or her too hard, or you'll find yourself all alone. Give him or her space and busy yourself with other activities.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): The changes you make to your living quarters will help lift your spirits. Get everyone you live with to help you accomplish the look and comfort you desire. Don't become involved in secret affairs.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You may find yourself trapped in a one-sided infatuation. You need to meet some interesting people who will take your mind off a non-productive pursuit. Get on with your life.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Trouble is brewing on the home front. Try not to embellish situations. Your partner will not tolerate your inability to confront emotional situations. Be prepared to give answers.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Business trips will pay big dividends. Don't hesitate to move if it means a promotion. Be careful not to let peers get wind of your intentions. You need to look out for yourself.

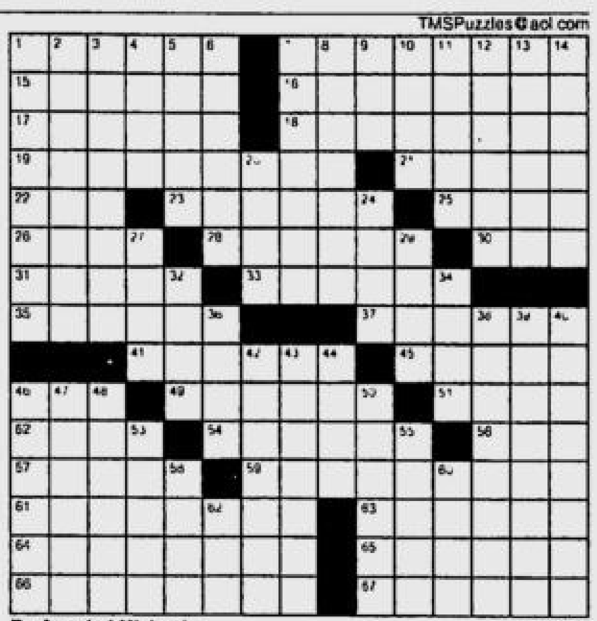
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You can make money through investments. Put some money into renovations or redecorating. The time spent with your family will be rewarding. Your innovative ideas will dazzle others.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll have trouble convincing your mate to go along with your plans. Don't beat around the bush; state your case in simple terms.

Birthday Baby: You can be emotional if you don't get your way. You have set ideas and like things to be done just the way you prefer. You are clever, courageous and careful, as well as dedicated to those you trust and love.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Annabel Michaels
Williamsburg, VA

3/17/01

ACROSS
1 Greek letter
7 Makes a rustling sound
15 Idolized
16 Ghost of Agatha Christie?
17 Mussolini's first name
18 Light musical production
19 Basic
21 Hot head?
22 Nonclerical
23 Rodeo ropes
25 Soil
26 Cup brims
28 "This is __ Tap"
30 Blockhead
31 Cuts and splices
33 Gives lip
35 Got back to even
37 Ringo and Belle
41 Shows surprise, e.g.
45 Tasty tidbit
46 Health resort
49 Agitating
51 Shuttle grp.
52 Campfire whopper
54 Story in installments
56 Part of mph
57 T. Garr movie
59 Soup dumpling
61 Cast votes
63 Make feasible
64 In matched pairings
65 Ball favorites
66 Lack of punctuality
67 Commands

DOWN
1 Tagger
2 Capital of South Australia
3 Long/Hanks movie, with "The"
4 Fedora feature
5 Discourage
6 Handsome man
7 Where to find Zagreb
8 Develops a new strategy
9 __ had it!
10 Soft-toy substance
11 Delivered a low blow?
12 Neighbor of Estonia
13 Comes in
14 Begins
20 Light knocks
24 Impudent words
27 Agitate
29 Gives permission to
32 Mystic visionary
34 Cut, as logs
36 Elevated platform
38 Ready for harvesting
39 Dealer in used goods
40 Like completely cloudy nights
42 Four-time Cy Young Award winner
43 Censorious speeches
44 Annoying fit
46 Conventional representation
47 Argentine port
48 Wristband, e.g.
50 Belvedere
53 "The Prince of Tides" star
55 Recluse
58 "The __ and Sixpence"
60 Hairless
62 Shoe's tip

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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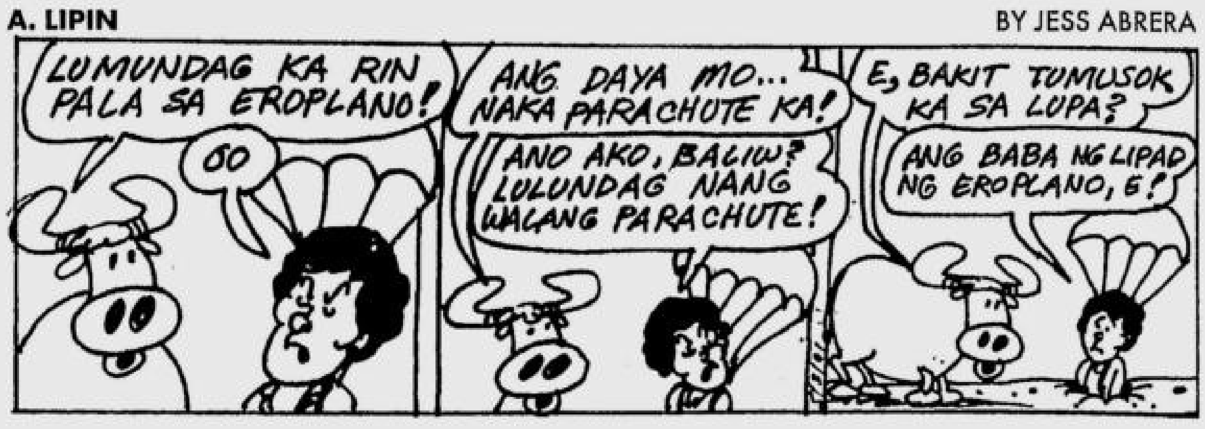
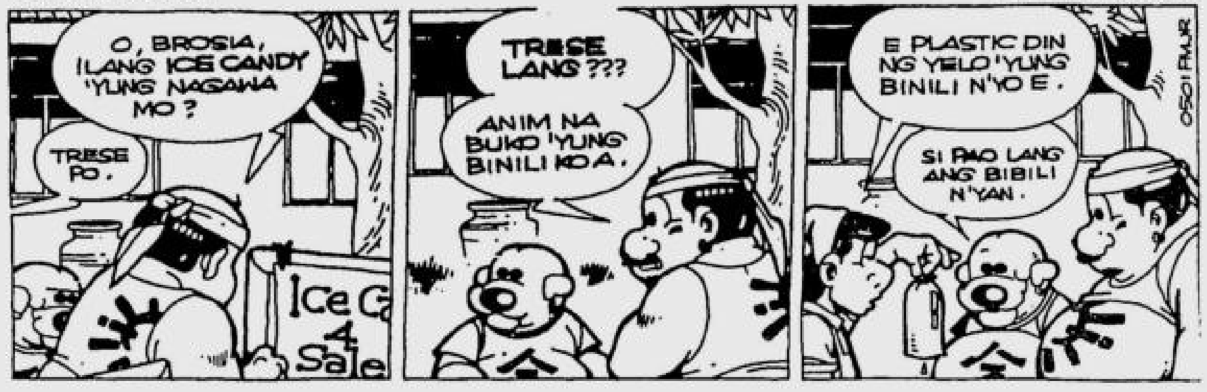
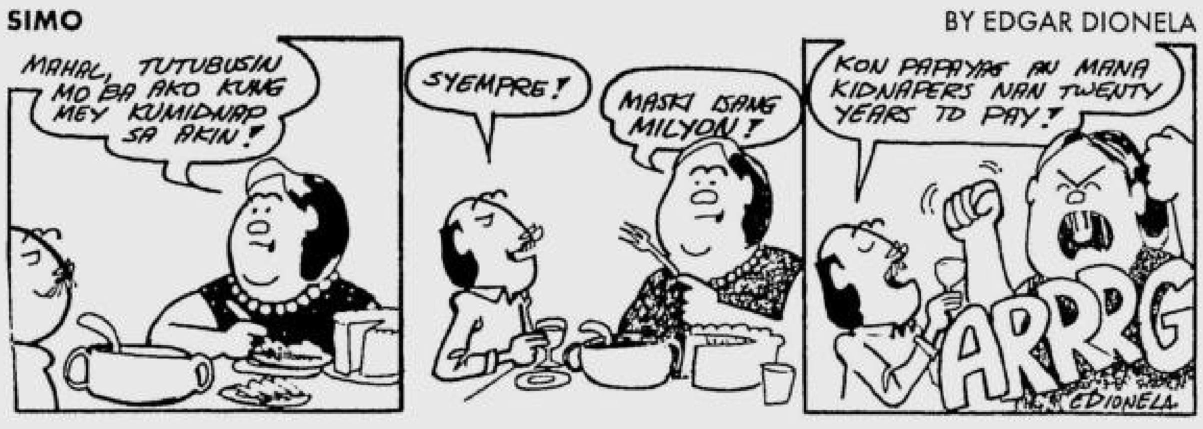
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


LUMUNDAG KA RIN PALA SA EROPLANO!
OO
ANG DAYA MO... NAKA PARACHUTE KA!
ANO AKO, BALIW? LULUNDAG NANG WALANG PARACHUTE!
E, BAKIT TUMUSOK KA SA LUPA?
ANG BABA NG LIPAD NG EROPLANO, E!

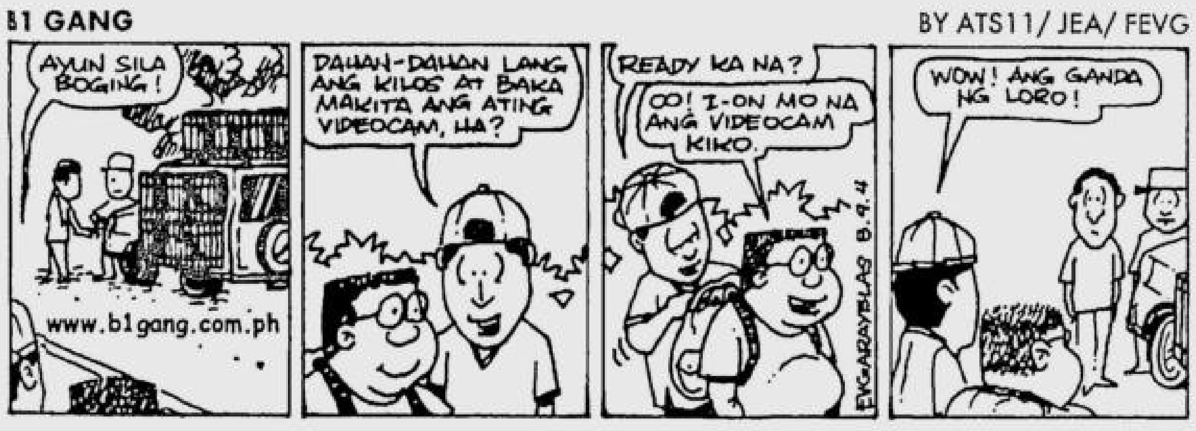
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


O, BROSIA, ILANG ICE CANDY 'YUNG NAGAWA MO?
TRESE PO.
Ice C 4 Sale
TRESE LANG???
ANIM NA BUKO 'YUNG BINILI KO A.
E PLASTIC DIN NG YELO 'YUNG BINILI N'YO E.
SI PAO LANG ANG BIBILI N'YAN.
0501 PMJR

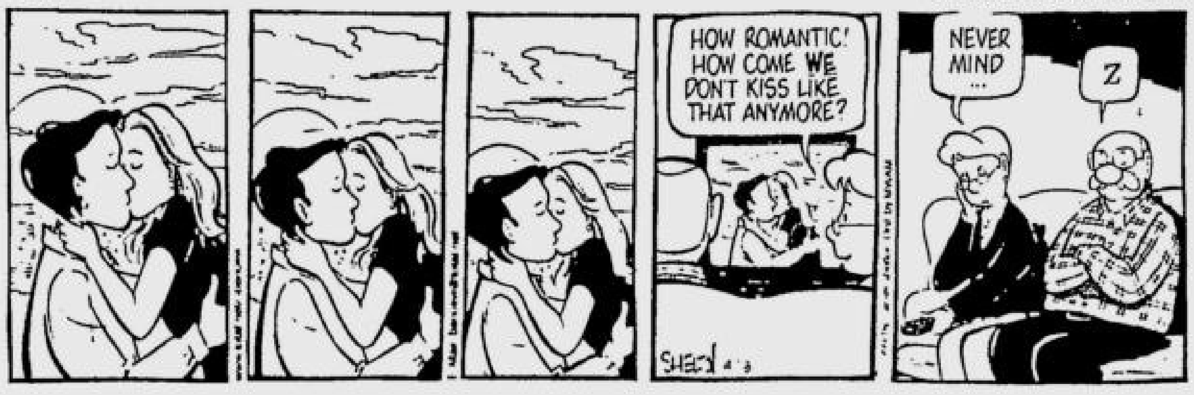
SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA


MAHAL, TUTUBUSIN MO BA AKO KUNG MEY KUMIDNAP SA AKIN?
SYEMPRE!
MASKI ISANG MILYON?
KON PAPAYAG AN MANA KIDNAPERS NAN TWENTY YEARS TO PAY!
ARRRG
EDIONELA

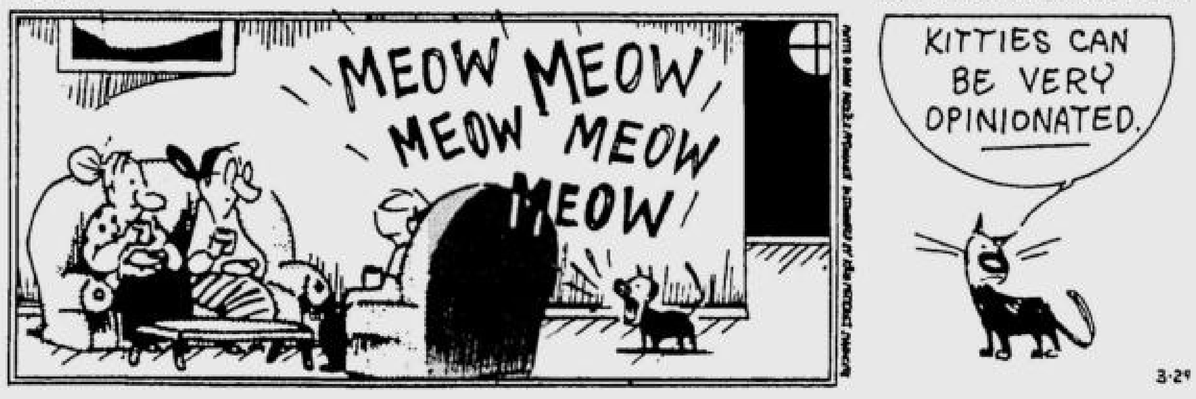
B1 GANG BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


AYUN SILA BOGING!
www.b1gang.com.ph
DAHAN-DAHAN LANG ANG KILOS AT BAKA MAKITA ANG ATING VIDEOCAM, HA?
READY KA NA?
OO! I-ON MO NA ANG VIDEOCAM KIKO.
EVGARAYBLAS 8.9.4
WOW! ANG GANDA NG LORO!

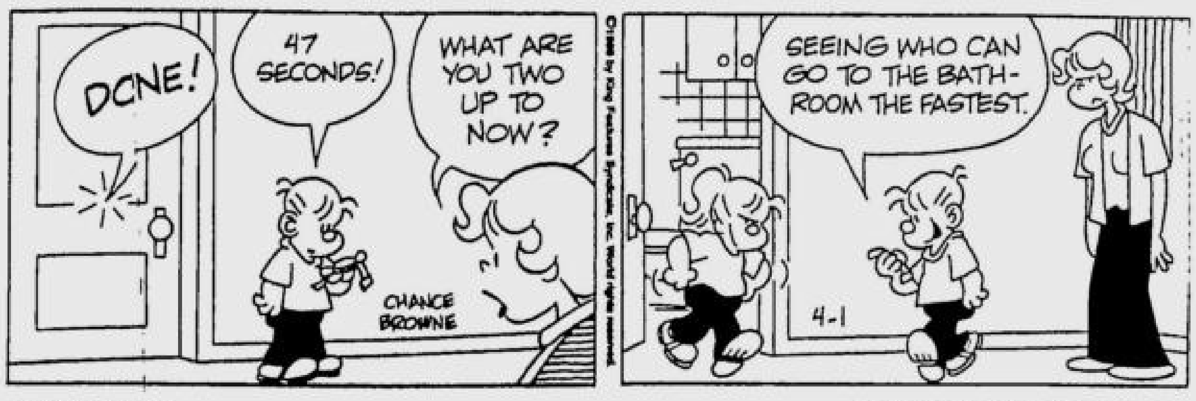
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


HOW ROMANTIC! HOW COME WE DON'T KISS LIKE THAT ANYMORE?
NEVER MIND ...
Z

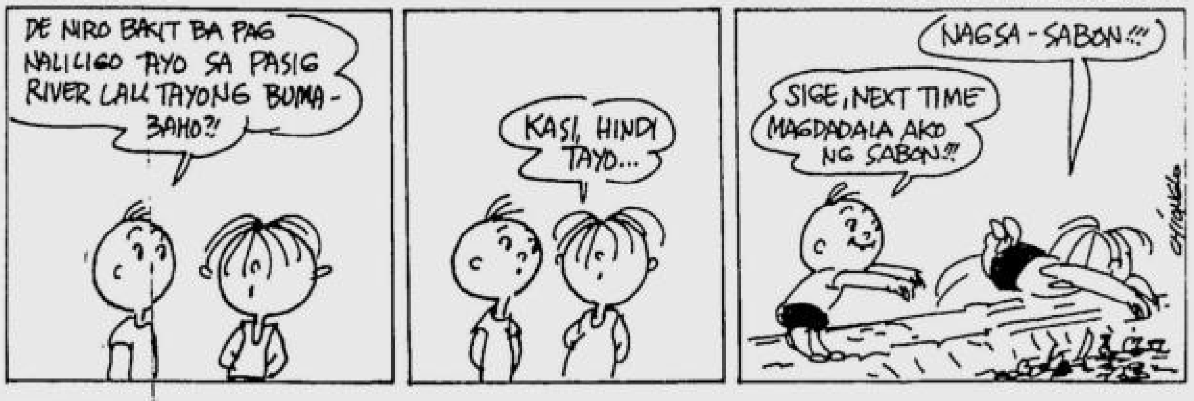
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


MEOW MEOW MEOW MEOW MEOW
KITTIES CAN BE VERY OPINIONATED.
3-29

HI AND LOIS BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


DONE!
47 SECONDS!
WHAT ARE YOU TWO UP TO NOW?
CHANCE BROWNE
SEEING WHO CAN GO TO THE BATHROOM THE FASTEST.
4-1

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


DE NIRO BAKIT BA PAG NALILIGO TAYO SA PASIG RIVER LALU TAYONG BUMABAHO?!
KASI, HINDI TAYO...
SIGE, NEXT TIME MAGDADALA AKO NG SABON!!!
NAGSA-SABON!!!

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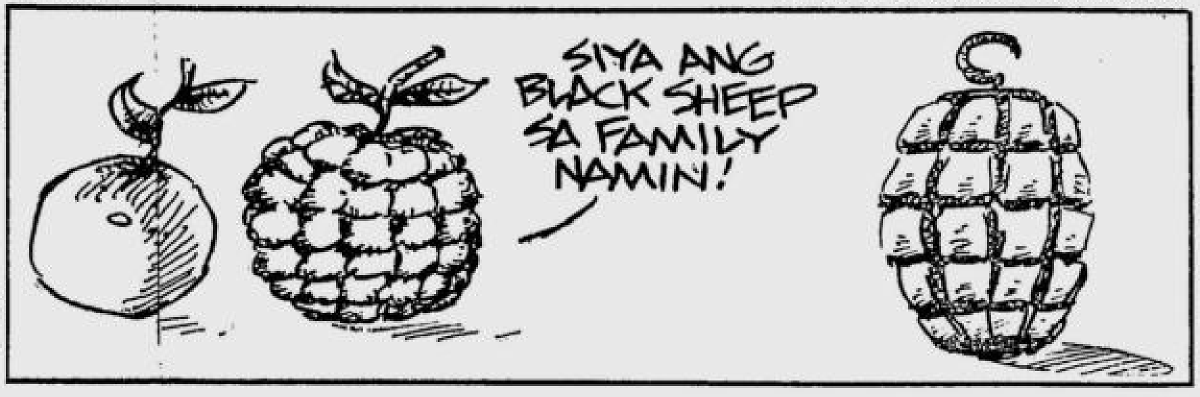

SIYA ANG BLACK SHEEP SA FAMILY NAMIN!

Seafood in a brighter shade of red

By Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Mike Alquinto

OURS is a nation blessed with the sea's bounty yet some of us do poorly by it. A fish is to fry, we think. So we slosh it with batter or jacket it in bread crumbs and plunk it into bubbling oil. There's nothing wrong with fried fish but there are too many kinds of fish to lump in the same kettle.

From a catch far less impressive than our own, the French have built an inspired repertoire of recipes. The Scandinavians know dozens of ways to prepare salmon and herring; the Greeks do exciting things with squid; the Italians—well, it was they who taught the French to cook; the Chinese whish shrimps in and out of a wok with a crunch of green vegetables so that it's irresistibly succulent; the Japanese have made an art and ritual of sushi.

But this is not to say we don't have some classics of our own.

At the Red Crab Seafood and Steaks, it's hard to top Crab Adobo sautéed in rich crab *aligi*, ginger and spices, for example. Or the spicy Sizzling Gambas sautéed in tomato sauce, or the Grilled Pampano with Tagilo, which is fermented rice and shrimps.

Owned and managed by Chiqui Eusebio and her children Raymund, Maricel, Chang and Nikki, the Red Crab opened its first branch three years ago in Clark. Their clientele are "those who spend a lot on seafoods and steaks after a mean game of golf at the Mimosa Leisure Estate or losing in the casino." After a year, outlets were put up at 536 Remedios St., Malate, Manila and at 184 Tomas Morato, QC a month ago.

Patterned after the fastfood restaurant Red Lobster which has over 600 branches in the United States, the Red Crab is into fine dining "which aims to serve the best seafoods and premium steaks in a relaxed ambience."

The core of the menu are the 12 crab dishes that are steamed, deep-fried, Szechuan, Singaporean chili, Lungkow, Tauchi, *relleno*, sautéed in coconut milk, crab fat, olive oil, *miswa* and celery or cooked in black beans and oyster sauce.

"The menu is constantly evolving, depending on the tastes of our customers. They can even go into the kitchen to make sure their preferences are followed," says Raymund Magdaluyo.

In fact, some appetizing suggestions have been part of the restaurant's menu: Crab Lilian, sautéed in coconut milk, marinated and spiced with native chili peppers, which was named after a family friend, Lilian Limjoco; and Crab Maritess, cooked in olive oil, butter and wine and topped with chili peppers and garlic, also named after a regular client, Maritess Araneta. They're now experimenting on Thai Chili Crab and Pepper Crab.

CRISPY Shrimps

BROTHER-AND-SISTER ACT: Raymund and Nikki Magdaluyo

Delicious fresh catch

Shellfish, especially crustaceans, have been known to contain high cholesterol. But their greatest drawback is that they often cause allergic reactions and also, if not absolutely fresh, can poison you. Sometimes you have to struggle to get them out of the shells, as is the case with oysters, or put up with a revolting appearance as with squids.

But Raymund makes sure that their crabs, which mostly weigh from 1-1.5 kilos, are delivered alive and well from Pampanga and Bataan to their three outlets. "We don't really go for size but for consistency, sweetness of meat and the orangey quality of fat." He also adds that their boneless *bangus* and *panga* from General Santos are blast frozen.

Aside from seafoods, the Red Crab also proffers US black angus and New Zealand premium cuts, soups, salads, vegetables, barbecue and deep-fried specials, grilled favorites, pasta collection, meals for kids, desserts and native dishes from Pampanga. There's also the Combination Platter of Fillet Mignon paired either with Garlic Prawns, Tempura, Norwegian Salmon, Grilled Lobster or Grilled Blue Marlin and served with soup of the day, fresh greens, salad and steamed rice or any potato sidings

With such cuisine that evokes down-to-earth pleasures, one won't leave the place with a feeling of dissatisfaction.

Family of cooks

Since the Magdaluyos have been born and raised in an evocative location such as Pampanga where their mother and grandma cultivated an art as delicate as it is succulent, the siblings have acquired the region's culinary refinement.

Cuisine is one of the strong points of their 80-year-old grandmother Amanda, who prepares the sauces for Red Crab's heavenly creations. *A cusinera de campanilla* in San Fernando, Pampanga, all she has to do is taste a dish however elaborate, to know immediately what ingredients it contains and in what proportions, how long it was cooked and how she can improve it. Evidently, grandma's genes have been passed on to the grandchildren. Chang is "naturally gifted" when it comes to cooking. She manages the 6-sq m Minindal in SM Pampanga, which serves Pampango *merienda* fare, and helps their mom in overseeing the Red Crab outlet in Clark. Nikki is a spectacle once in the kitchen. Nothing escapes her nose, her taste buds and her instincts as a chef.

FINE dining version of the Red Lobster

CRAB Maritess

BANANA Carabana

GRILLED Pampano with Tagilo

Raymund, for his part, runs the outlets in Manila and Quezon City. A management economics graduate, he took up urban planning for his postgraduate studies then joined the Asian Institute of Management's Policy Center for three years. He now teaches city development at Ateneo and occasionally does projects for Palafox Associates

Together with their eldest sister, Maricel, who is a doctor, they have formed the RMCN Seafoods and Steaks and the Red Crab Food Group, which plans to cater for special functions of 50-100 persons.

Truly, we can do better by most of our catch. And the Red Crab shows that if we lavish half as much passion on the cooking of seafoods as we do on the catching, we'd do very well indeed.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

Black is beautiful even in the summer

THE BOYS of summer

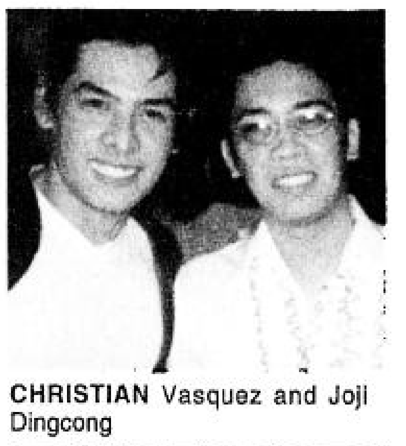
MAXINE Chua, Joey Mead and Jay Server

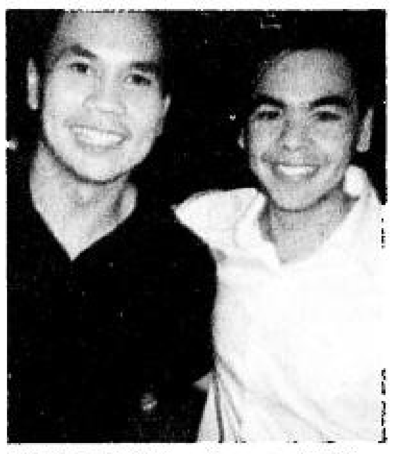
IT was a downright sizzling Friday night at Stars as the hottest, hunkiest male models paraded around in summer's hottest fashion to celebrate the coming of Blavod, Europe's most popular black vodka.

Aptly titled "All Male, All Black, All Bull," the party kicked off the arrival of Blavod and its No. 1 mixer Red Bull in a drink called Black Bull. Drop-dead gorgeous male models Jet Alcantara, Christian Vasquez, Ches Francisco, Alvin Degamo, Junel Liwanag, Rovi Victoria, Ariel Atendido, Garry Dulata, Harry de Guzman and Reggie Curly strutted their stuff much to the delight of the ladies present.

Handsome charmers who mingled with the ladies included concert king Martin Nievera, basketball heroes Steve Antonio, Ali Peek, Chris Jacksona and Rob Wainright, talented brothers Eric and Epy Quizon, crooner Paco Arespacochaga, Roy Ofek, photographer Raymund Isaac, Philip Cu-unjieng and Pepper Teehankee, Raul Teehankee, DJ Manolet Dario, Franco Romualdez, NU 107 owner Atom Henares, theater actor JM Rodriguez and businessman-model Illac Diaz.

Among the ladies who dared to try the black vodka were Joey Mead, Tweetie de Leon, Preview gals Tara Santos and Pauline Siaco, Mega's Sari Yap, Elbert and Liza Cuenca and Lorraine Belmonte, Melissa Fernandez, former Olympic champ Bea Lucero-Lhuillier and Max Chua with the Barbies.


CHRISTIAN Vasquez and Joji Dingcong


TONTON Gatmaitan and JM Rodriguez

Not to be forgotten were Cal Carrie's John and Tina Herrera, along with some of their Australian models; the trio of David Jacob, Anton Gonzalez and Adrian Hernandez; Joji Dingcong, Lito Herman and wife Ditas, Jay Server, Cinderella's Richie Santos with Mickey Ferriols, and Jojit Alcazar of ZED.

Overseeing the event like proud parents were Elisa Real and Lito Caballero of Blavod. And who wouldn't be proud? Blavod is conquering the gimmick crowds not only in Europe and the United States but, at the rate it's going, in the Philippines as well.

Blavod is triple-distilled and double charcoal-filtered for that exceptional smoothness. Its black color is from an obscure Burmese herb called black *catechu* (pronounced *kat-two*), which is said to have aphrodisiac qualities.

The story goes that when Mark Dorman, the guy who came up with this exciting drink, was sitting in a bar drinking his usual, regular, traditional vodka, another guy came up and asked the bartender for coffee. The bartender asked, "Black or white?" And it hit Mark. Why not black vodka? Give the drinkers a choice. Something different from the usual clear stuff you're used to drinking. And so Blavod was born.

TWEETIE de Leon-Gonzalez, Eric Quizon and Martin Nievera

MICKEY Ferriols and Richie Santos

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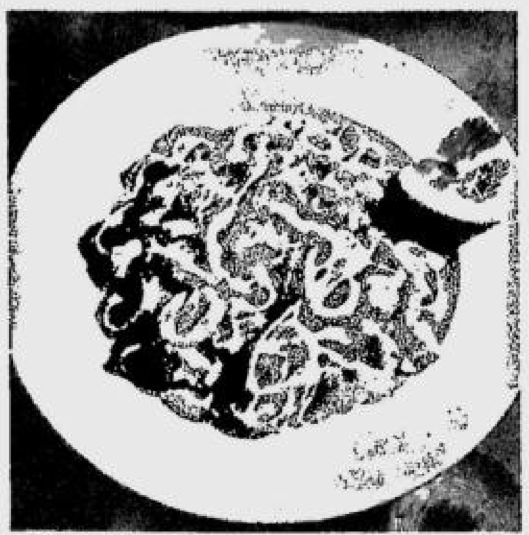
IN GOOD TASTE

Doreen G. Fernandez

The pizza is alive and well and living in the Philippines

THE ORIGINAL BBQ Chicken Pizza

PIZZAS are artifacts of Filipino life. We got them from the Americans, who got them from Italian immigrants. The original pizza is associated with Naples (*napoletana*), and may have started as *pitta*-like bread (the words are related) topped with flavor-makers. The most basic may be *pizza all'olio e pomodoro* (oil and tomatoes), also called *marinara* because its toppings of oil, tomato, garlic and oregano could be stowed on voyages so that sailors (*marinai*) of this seafaring city could make pizza away from home." The *Margherita* honors the queen of Italy who visited Naples more than a century ago; the tomato, basil and mozzarella cheese represent the red-white-green of the Italian flag.



CHICKEN-TEQUILA Fettuccine

It's been a long transcultural voyage from Naples to the Philippines, where we have of course done our own thing with it: added *longganisa*, salted eggs, *tocino*, pineapple; used *pan de sal as* base; invented and reinvented the Pinoy pizza. We have also taken the large pizza chains in, and now find delight in the California Pizza Kitchen (Glorietta 3, Ayala Center; tel. 813-3060, 867-2115 to -16; 813-3120). The extremely successful Makati store is the first franchise ever granted, and will be followed by subfranchises in Alabang and in the Shangri-La Edsa Mall.

Mind-bending combinations

The pizzas are good, large and thus meant to be shared, imaginative and new. The bestsellers are the Original BBQ Chicken and the Philly Cheesesteak (thinly sliced beef steak with sautéed onions, mushrooms, peppers and Provolone and American cheeses). But our tasting team highly recommends as well Peking Duck Pizza, (duck breast, wontons, Portobello mushrooms, slivered green onions and Hoisin sauce), Portobello Mushroom Pizza (with fresh thyme, roasted garlic and Italian parsley), Tricoloré Salad Pizza (in the Neapolitan section), with a caramelized Parmesan pizza crust topped with chilled arugula, radicchio, diced tomatoes and shaved Parmesan cheese with a Dijon balsamic vinaigrette dressing. And yes, they do have the Margherita, made with imported tomatoes, fresh mozzarella and fresh basil.

I especially savored the Vegetarian with Japanese Eggplant Pizza: fresh broccoli, grilled Japanese eggplant, roasted corn, sliced red onions, sun-dried tomatoes and mild goat cheese. On the mild side, one can intensify it with hot sauce. Aside from all these mind-bending combinations, one can choose to add extras: cheese, chicken, shrimp, duck breast, rosemary potato and vegetables.

The menu starts with appetizers: Sesame Ginger Chicken Dumplings, a Spinach Artichoke dip served with blue and white corn tortilla chips, both of which our party tried and liked. Soup fans will love the hefty Dakota Smashed Pea and Barley Soup, all vegetarian, thick with split peas, barley, carrots, onions, herbs, scallions, thus full of fiber and heartiness, a meal in itself.

Salads include BBQ Chicken Chopped; Romaine and Watercress with Gorgonzola cheese and walnuts, and White Balsamic Provençal with crisp greens and arugula, topped with feta cheese, sun-dried tomatoes, Mediterranean olives and Roma tomatoes. Salads come in entrée and half-sizes, with a fat-free herb balsamic dressing available.

One must try, Mikey Besa asserts, anything Oriental, especially the Szechuan Black Bean Spaghetti with chicken or shrimp, fresh broccoli, scallions and fresh ginger in a spicy red chili black bean sauce. Or Thai Linguini, with chicken or shrimp, julienne carrots, green onions, cilantro and roasted peanuts in a Thai peanut-ginger sauce, topped with fresh bean sprouts. We thoroughly enjoyed the perky perky fusilli with sun-dried tomatoes and broccoli, simple and excellent.

Made to order

All pasta dishes are individually made to order, and have not been sitting around waiting for Godot. Rosemary ravioli are filled with Portobello mushrooms, herbs and cheese. Penne goes with grilled Italian sausage, onions, red and yellow peppers and Parmesan cheese in a marinara sauce. Angel hair is flavored with Italian tomatoes, garlic and fresh basil—and goat cheese.

Enclosed in hearth-baked, herb-onion *focaccia* loaves are the Vegetarian Sandwich (grilled Japanese eggplant, roasted red and yellow peppers, fresh basil, Mozzarella and herb-mustard Parmesan vinaigrette); the Tuna Sandwich (chilled white albacore tuna, sweet white onions, Roma tomatoes, lettuce and herb-mustard vinaigrette); and the Grilled Chicken Caesar Sandwich (grilled chicken marinated in rosemary and white wine, with Romaine lettuce, Roma tomatoes, shaved

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APPLE Crisp

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